THE COLLECTED WORKS OF

MAHATMA GANDHI

VOLUME - 93

SUPPLEMENTARY VOLUME - III

THE PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

This the third Supplementary Volume unfolds with the year 1935, holding the Gandhian mirror to men and matters and to Indian on the anvil of the freedom struggle. Letters to Gandhiji's fellow-workers and close companions, as also to youngsters, scattered over a period of six-and-a-half years (January 1935 - July 1941), bring into focus the tremendous inner conflicts of a moralist and a pragmatist, endeavouring through an unrelenting personal *tapasya*, to strike the perfect balance between the two. "The flesh must be subdued", Gandhiji avers, writing to Maurice Frydman, for "freedom from that bondage is mastery over the flesh, the self. All *tapasya* is self-torture."

The Civil Disobedience campaign of Gandhiji's conception had to be consistent with the ethics of non-violence and self-purification, namely, *yajna*, as emphasized in the *Bhagavadgita*. In a poignant letter to Pyarelal, his biographer and associate of long standing, he rues the inadequacy of his *brahmacharya*; "In no sense have I have been the *brahmachari* of my definition... I am trying to understand myself in the light of the *Gita*."

Crucial to the goal of complete freedom as set down by Gandhiji, are the twin principles of Truth and Non-violence. With the means of *ahimsa*, he explains, the end, that of knowing God or Truth, can be realized. "Every spiritual distemper is a fleeing away from God. The surest remedy therefore is to seek the presence of God so much so that we see Him face to face. In the presence of God, there can be no sin, no sorrow, no anger, no malice, no falsehood." Marching the country on this path towards self-realization, Gandhiji could even "hurt colleagues and the entire world for the sake of truth."

Volume 93

GANDHI PEACE FOUNDATION
BANGALORE CENTRE,
GANDHI BHAVAN
Kumara Park (East), BANGALORE-1

THE COLLECTED WORKS OF MAHATMA GANDHI

SUPPLEMENTARY VOLUME III

(1935 - 1941)

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MAHATMA GANDHI

SUPPLEMENTARY VOLUME III
(1935 - 1941)

GANDHI SMARAKA GRANTHALAYA
DATE.............................
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No.............................
BANGALORE-1

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗಾಂಧೀ ಸ್ಮಾರಕ ನಿಧಿ (ರಿ)
ಪರಿಗ್ರಹಣ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:
ACC. No.: 1926
ಗಾಂಧೀ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-1

सत्यमेव जयते

THE PUBLICATIONS DIVISION
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

March 1993 (Phalguna 1914)

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Rs. 25

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR, THE PUBLICATIONS DIVISION
NEW DELHI-110 001
AND PRINTED IN INDIA BY JITENDRA T. DESAI
NAVAJIVAN MUDRANALAYA, AHMEDABAD-380 014

NOTE TO THE READER

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A list of sources for the period covered by the Volume is provided at the end.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For material in this volume we are indebted to the Gandhi National Museum and Library (Rashtriya Gandhi Sangrahalaya), National Archives of India, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library and Prime Minister's Office, New Delhi; Sarabhai Foundation and Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust and Sangrahalaya, Ahmedabad; Swami Vivekananda Library and Reading Room, Kanyakumari; Dr. Abraham Paul, Shri Anand T. Hingorani, Shri Arjun Jairamdas, Smt. Beladevi Nayyar, Smt. Eleni Samios, Nicosia; Shri Erkula Kumarila Swamy, Shri Francis L. Brown, Shri Fulchand Jain, Shri Gopal Narayan Shiromany, Shri Kantilal Gandhi, Smt. Lilavati Asar, Smt. Marjorie Sykes, Smt. F. Mary Barr, Shri P. R. Nagu, Shri Narayan Desai, Dr. Priyamvada Mathur, Shri Purushottam K. Jerajani, Shri Pyarelal, Shri Ramakrishna Bajaj, Shri Roger W. Holmes, Shri Sri Krishna Nath, Dr. Sushila Nayyar, Shri N. S. Venkatakrishnan; the publishers of the books: *Bapu—A Unique Association*, Vol. II, *Bapuki Chhayamen*, *Golden Book of Dilip Kumar Roy*, *History of the Indian National Congress*, *Manavtana Prahari—Pannalal Jhaveri*, *Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Correspondence and Select Documents*, Vol. I, *Reminiscenecces of the Nehru Age*; and the following newspaper and magazine respectively: (*The*) *Bombay Chronicle*, *Status*.

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1. *LETTER TO RAJARAM R. BHOLE*

Delhi,
January 16, 1935

MY DEAR RAJARAM,

I have your letter. Seeing that you have put on weight I would advise you not to leave the Sanatorium if the authorities still want to continue the treatment and do not mind your prolonged stay. It is no use your going to Poona and becoming worse. He who passes time in rendering himself fitter for the service, which he cannot do otherwise, is also doing service. Therefore, staying in Mysore need not be regarded as waste of time.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI RAJARAM BHOLE
P. K. T. SANATORIUM
VONTIKOPPAL
MYSORE

From the original: R. R. Bhole Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

2. *WORKING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION*

[On or before *January 18, 1935*][1]

Official announcement has been made that the Silver Jubilee of His Britannic Majesty's reign is to be celebrated in India. It is necessary for the Working Committee to guide the public as to the attitude to be adopted on the occasion.

---

[1] The Working Committee of the Congress met on January 16 and 18, 1935, during which time Gandhiji had discussions with the Committee and also drafted this resolution in connection with the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Coronation of King George V; *vide* also p. 4.

The Congress has and can have nothing but good wishes for the personal well-being of His Majesty, but the Congress cannot ignore the fact that the rule in India with which His Majesty is naturally identified has been a positive hindrance to the political, moral and material growth of the nation. It now threatens to culminate in a Constitution which, if enforced, promises to exploit the Nation, to drain her of what she still possesses of wealth and to harden her political subjection as has perhaps never been attempted before.

It is, therefore, impossible for the Working Committee to advise any participation in the forthcoming celebrations. At the same time, the Working Committee has no desire by hostile demonstrations to wound the susceptibilities of Englishmen and others who will want to take part in the celebrations. The Working Committee therefore, advises the general public, including Congressmen who may be members of elected bodies, to be satisfied with mere abstention from the events that may be arranged for celebration.

The Working Committee trusts that the authorities and responsible Englishmen will recognize and appreciate the honest and inevitable attitude of the Working Committee and refrain from unnecessarily wounding national self-respect by compelling, directly or indirectly, participation in the forthcoming celebrations.

History of the Indian National Congress, Vol. I, p. 600

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3. *LETTER TO RANI VIDYAVATI*

January 31, 1935

CHI. VIDYA,

I have your letter. If you want to be treated by a doctor, then the Seva Sadan of Calcutta is the place for you. But I always prefer nature cure. There are water-cure experts in Lucknow too. You can seek advice from them and do what you can. I cannot advise you about earth-cure from here. Whatever I or anyone else says in this regard should be considered as of no account. You should do what seems good to you. I can write[1] to Dr. Bidhan Roy if you desire to go to the Seva Sadan. Your doctor in Lucknow can consult him and then you can go there. If you are planning to go immediatley you can send me a telegram and I shall write at once.

---

[1] *Vide* Vol. LX, p. 161.

There were some complaints against you. These were sent to you yesterday.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Rani Vidyavati Papers. Courtesy: Gandhi National Museum and Library

---

4. *LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI*

WARDHA,
February 1, 1935

CHI. MATHURADAS,

You have well discharged the duty of a watchman. I had not known about the demise of Husainbhai's father. I have sent him a letter today.

How did you fare in the election? You have not written anything about it. How much did you have to spend? How is your health? What are your activities? Would you be interested in cottage industries?

Blessings from
BAPU

MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI
74 WALKESHWAR ROAD
BOMBAY

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

---

5. *LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI*

February 6, 1935

CHI. MRIDULA,

You will have learnt that Rambhau[1] has turned out to be worthless. He has been committing petty thefts. So he can be relieved. Or if you want to keep him on, you have to be careful. Talk to him if you want. Try to reform him if you can. What his father or I could not do, you may be able to do.

---

[1] Ramachandra, son of Narayan Moreshwar Khare; *vide* also Vol. LX, p. 105.

It was good that you two, father and daughter, came and met me.

I hope Saralabehn is keeping well. I have written this with the left hand as the right hand is tired.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11193. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

---

6. *LETTER TO C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR*

WARDHA,
February 7, 1935

DEAR FRIEND,

I have your two letters. I hope you will excuse the delay. My time is not my own, and I never knew that there was any hurry.

I hold totally different views from yours. We have not to deal with the family of the great Queen as individuals, but we have to deal with them as representatives of a mighty government. We have to celebrate an event in connection not with the private vitrues of an autocrat, but we have to deal with the events of an empire for a period of twenty-five years during which King George has been the nominal head but which as an individual he has perhaps no more power to influence than you or I, and infinitely less than the Collector of your district in his own district. I, therefore, feel that the resolution of the Working Committee[1] was the only correct thing to do. It preserves the self-respect of the nation without hurting the susceptibilities of anybody. Lastly I have to own to you that the resolution was drafted by me as I happened to be in Delhi at the time, not by design but by accident. They would not deal with such a delicate matter without conferring with me. Possibly, had I not been there the resolution would have been bitter and perhaps offensive. Everybody has owned that the present resolution is purged of any offence.

---

[1] *Vide* pp. 1-2.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR
ARAMA, SALEM (S. INDIA)

From a copy: C. Vijayaraghavachariar Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

7. *LETTER TO RAOJIBHAI PATEL*

Unrevised [Before *February 10, 1935*][1]

CHI. RAOJIBHAI,

I understand what you say about Lalita. She can not be forced to do anything against her will. You have done your duty if you do not participate in extravagant and undesirable expenditure.

Send me a sample of the paddy. I want to look at it and examine it after removing the husk. It is not very necessary to have a man for pounding. The husk can be removed by grinding ordinary paddy in a small hand-mill and separating the husk. Anyone can do this. The necessity of a man for pounding arises only for polishing the rice. That needs a little skill. But we do not want to polish the rice.

There is a variety of paddy whose husk is so stuck to the grain that it can only be removed with great difficulty. The husk from such paddy can be easily separated by steaming it first as in the case of whole pulses. This is how it is usually done. For this purpose the paddy is not boiled fully. Rice cooked by fully boiling the paddy tastes the sweetest. That is the experience of those who have tried it.

We involve ourselves in these processes only in order to make our own experiments and to publicize the results.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G. N. 9014

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[1] From the contents; *vide* Vol. LX, pp. 204 and 275.

8. LETTER TO AMIYA

WARDHA,
February 16, 1935

DEAR AMIYA,

Father tells me you are about to enter a new state. May you and yours lead a happy life of useful service to the country. Remember that marriage is a sacrament. You are therefore presently to take up a new and sacred trust in life. May God give you and yours strength to discharge it.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

---

9. TELEGRAM TO P. R. NAGU[1]

WARDHAGANJ,
February 19, 1935

P. R. NAGU
BOGALE

HOPE YOU WILL REVIVE RIGHT KIND INDUSTRIES.

GANDHI

From a photostat: C. W. 11076. Courtesy: P. R. Nagu

---

[1] This was in reply to the addressee's telegram which read: "... lakhs of artisans and agriculturists who had given shape to sky-reaching towers and fine beautiful sculptures to be wondered [at] and praised by the world, but had been set aside as daily coolies under the foreign rule, will certainly be benefited by the cottage industries scheme of your respectful and noble self."

10. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

WARDHA,
February 21, 1935

CHI. LILAVATI,

I have received your letter. It is good to consider ourselves unworthy. However, at the same time, there should be a mighty effort to make ourselves worthy. As you are making such an effort, all is bound to be well with you. Do not deceive yourself. Do not exert yourself beyond your capacity. Keep writing to me. Take care of your body and mind.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

11. LETTER TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH

WARDHA,
February 24, 1935

CHI. SUMANGAL,

I have your distressing letter. Please come over. Ask Narendra Dev why he has not yet recovered.

Blessings from
BAPU

SUMANGAL PRAKASH
KASHI VIDYAPITH
BANARAS CANTT.

From a photostat of the Hindi: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

12. LETTER TO RANI VIDYAVATI

February 25, 1935

CHI. VIDYA,

I have your letter. Be calm and get well. We shall talk about the complaints later. Forget that you are a Rani. Be a humble servant in thought, speech and action.

If it is malnutrition, consult your doctor. Is anyone accompanying you? Take eggs as medicine. If eggs alone could put things right I would consider it an achievement.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Rani Vidyavati Papers. Courtesy: Gandhi National Museum and Library

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13. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

WARDHA,
February 27, 1935

CHI. MRIDU,

I have received your beautiful letter. Many young men today are not even prepared to listen to the words of their parents, whereas there are others who would not tolerate anything from their parents but would put up with a great deal from those whom they regard as their friends. Thus, everything depends on individuals and circumstances.

You have taken the right step. Rambhau will be leaving today. Panditji will discuss the matter with you. Do only what you think is in the interest of the organization.

Mummy must have gone away happy. Convey my blessings when you write to her. Also write to her that I always think of her. Let her come after complete recovery.

Come back when it is possible.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: C.W. 11194. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

14. LETTER TO JOHN HAYNES HOLMES

WARDHA,
March 7, 1935

DEAR DR. HOLMES,

I have your letter of 25th January last redirected from Delhi by Devdas. I know you have been regularly receiving a diary of events from here. Therefore I need say nothing about them. I do remember a reference to your Church[1] having conferred upon me the Community Church Medal. You may send it to my address at Wardha duly registered and I shall get it.[2]

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

DR. HOLMES
N. Y., U. S. A.

From a photostat: C. W. 10964. Courtesy : Roger W. Holmes and Frances L. Brown

---

15. LETTER TO N. S. HARDIKAR

WARDHA,
March 13, 1935

DEAR DR. HARDIKAR,

On inquiring of Kamala Devi about you, she told me that you were suffering from T. B. I was distressed. Please let me know how you are faring.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

DR. HARDIKAR
HOOBLI
KARNATAKA

From the original: N. S. Hardikar Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

---

[1] The Community Church of New York

[2] The addressee had written, "You may remember that two years ago my Church conferred upon you our so-called Community Church Medal for outstanding service in the higher religious interests of mankind", and had expressed his intention of sending the Medal safely and early enough.

16. LETTER TO TARADEVI

WARDHA,
March 21, 1935

CHI. TARA[1],

I have your letter. I do not know the rules of the Seva Sadan. But if you must go, I do not think there will be any difficulty. Your going will certainly please Mother. Do go if you feel so disposed. But your work should not suffer. I am writing to Mother. How far have you progressed in your studies?

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI TARAMATIBEHN
MAHILA VIDYALAYA
LUCKNOW

From the Hindi original: Rani Vidyavati Papers. Courtesy: Gandhi National Museum and Library

---

17. LETTER TO RANI VIDYAVATI

WARDHA,
March 21, 1935

CHI. VIDYA,

Tara writes that you worry about her. What can you gain by worrying? What can you achieve by her being with you? Your concern at the moment is to regain your health.

---

[1] Daughter of Rani Vidyavati

You will certainly be all right if you calmly pursue the treatment.

Blessings from
BAPU

RANI VIDYAVATI OF HARDOI
IN-PATIENT
CHITTARANJAN SEVA SADAN
148 RASSA ROAD
KALIGHAT, CALCUTTA

From the Hindi original: Rani Vidyavati Papers. Courtesy: Gandhi National Museum and Library

---

18. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

WARDHA,
March 26, 1935

CHI. MATHURADAS,

Pyarelal is wholly free. If he had listened to me how could he be in the present state? He is at present blinded by lust. In such a state he expects to have a vision of God. None but God can rescue him from this situation. Do call him to you if you can persuade him. The address is: Gandhi Seva Sena, Bhadrak. Kaka has been to see him. He is studying Marathi in the land of Oriya. Mahadev has explained to me the reason of his silence. It is cent per cent correct.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

---

19. NOTE TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH[1]

[*March 26, 1935*][2]

Everyone cannot be prescribed the same diet. If health could be ensured without fruit I would never serve fruit. It seems, however, that fruit is necessary, be it in ever so small a quantity. You should therefore take whatever fruit you are given, considering it as medicine. If some particular fruit does not seem to suit you, you may give it up. Mirabehn thus takes fruit, Bhau[1] takes it and so should you. Tell Bhau he may take five or seven *tolas* of leafy vegetables. He will know from experience exactly how much he should take. If it is necessary to cut down on bread you may do so. If the amount of milk, curd, etc., is increased you may not need as much bread. Here also experience will help you decide the quantity. You can have as much curd as you want. Tell Balvantsinha this.

---

[1] The note followed a talk that the addressee had had with Gandhiji after an attack of colic pain.

[2] The date has been supplied by the addressee.

From a photostat of the Hindi: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

20. A NOTE

March 28, 1935

In that case he[2] should put ten grains of soda to every eight ounces of water and drink it even if he feels sick. He should take hot water with salt or honey as he may relish it. He may also take starch from boiled rice. The honey should be of the best quality and taken with soda and hot water.

From the Gujarati original: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

21. NOTE TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH

April 1, 1935

If the tomatoes are good, please wash them first in a solution of potassium permanganate and then in clear water. If you feel like taking milk you should do so. The milk should be taken unboiled. No need now to add hot water. Milk, tomatoes and an orange—this should constitute the diet for today. Tamarind water as and when required.

From a photostat of the Hindi: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

---

[1] Bhau Panse

[2] Sumangal Prakash

22. *NOTE TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH*

April 3, 1935

Do you feel heaviness in the stomach? Even then you should take only milk and fruit in the morning. At noon a little bread, a little curd, and raw crushed vegetable, tamarind and jaggery. How did you like crushed vegetable yesterday? If you like whole leaves you may take them or you may take them crushed. Take only *bhakhari*. Are you used to taking rice? For the evening *bhakhari* and vegetable and tomatoes if they are available. Increase the quantity slowly. Let not your stomach get out of order.

From the Hindi original: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

---

23. *LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR*

WARDHA,
April 4, 1935

CHI. LILAVATI,

You seem to be acting in the manner of the thief scolding the policeman. My impression is that the last letter has still to come from you. How can you be forgotten? I do get news of you. Do come during the vacation if you feel like it. Are you in good health or are there complications still?

Ask Kusum to write.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

24. *LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI*

April 5, 1935

CHI. MATHURADAS,

Please be assured it was a good thing you were not elected. You can do a great deal of service from outside. It is possible you may have to be out of the Corporation altogether. I hope you are keeping fit.

I had known about Sardar's illness. I get letters every day.

Do draw Pyarelal to you if you can do so. I am guiding him in my own way. His good lies in finding peace in Utkal. Hence, I would not suggest to him anything else. You have a right to call him over. I shall not stop him if he agrees to go.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

25. *NOTE TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH*

April 8, 1935

First read this.[1] I have not revised it. If there is anything you want to ask me you may. You make the corrections in the language on this itself. I shall then see it and a copy can be made out. If you find any looseness of thought you should make a note of it. It will be convenient for both of us.

From the Hindi original : Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

---

[1] Draft of speech for the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan of which Gandhiji was the President and which was to be held on April 20 and 23. For the text of the speech, *vide* Vol. LX, pp. 443-50.

26. *NOTE TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH*

April 8, 1935

Do not spend so much money.[1] With fresh milk and curd you do not need so many oranges. Tamarind can be a substitute for oranges. Tamarind, raw vegetables, papaw and tomatoes are enough.

From the Hindi original: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

---

27. *LETTER TO SAMPURNANAND*

WARDHA,
April 10, 1935

DEAR SAMPURNANAND,

I have your letter. My memory has become weak, but I do seem to recollect that each of the provinces was given its rightful share.[2] If not, the matter should be looked into. Has this happened in every case? If injustice has been done and if I can do something about it, I shall certainly do so.

SHRI SAMPURNANANDJI
JALIP DEVI
KASHI
BANARAS (U. P.)

From the Hindi original: Sampurnanand Papers. Courtesy: National Archives of India

---

[1] The addressee had said that he had been taking a dozen oranges a day and pointed out that the price of oranges had gone up.

[2] The addressee had complained that under the new constitution of the Congress, U. P. had been given inadequate representation in the A. I. C. C.; for the October 1934 resolution of the Congress embodying the amended constitution, *vide* Vol. LIX, pp. 245-57.

28. NOTE TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH

April 15, 1935

The idea behind giving you tamarind today is to make vegetable palatable. In the end you must find the leaves tasty as Mirabehn does and as many I think do. Although I have consulted physicians regarding tamarind, people take me to task for it. My experience is that I can take four large spoonfuls of it. So far no adverse effect has been seen. But it is yet too early to say anything. Bhau is none too well. Tamarind could be the cause.

From the Hindi original: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

---

29. LETTER TO SHASHIBALA

April 23, 1935

CHI. SHASHIBALA,

Even though Kamalnayan[1] and you have talked things over sufficiently, you may still come and see me before finally deciding on the relationship. You may come even if Father agrees to the proposal.[2]

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: C. W. 10985. Courtesy: Ramakrishna Bajaj

---

[1] Son of Jamnalal Bajaj

[2] *Vide* also Vol. LXI, pp. 8 and 259.

30. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

WARDHA,
April 25, 1935

CHI. MATHURADAS,

I had your letter. I spoke to Munshi[1] and wrote to Sardar.[2] You will be keeping good health.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI
74 WALKESHWAR ROAD
BOMBAY

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

31. LETTER TO RAMDAS GANDHI

April 28, 1935

CHI. RAMDAS,

I have your letter. You are very lucky, indeed. I am glad that your last enterprise has come to nought. It could not have continued. The difference between business and service is that in the latter income is limited and in the former it is unlimited. Business, of course, calls for hard work. You should therefore take up a job and learn what you wish to learn. You will acquire self-confidence if you learn some trade. If yon take in a press, learn printing or composing. Then there are of course the crafts such as tailoring, shoe-making and carpentry. The easiest are tailoring and shoe-making. Both involve only stitching. After learning these crafts you may even do business in the filed. Instead of hankering after money, you should be keen on learning. Ba suggests that you should go to Amreli and serve under Ramjibhai. I also would like Amreli provided that there too you learnt some craft. I have been giving you this advice for many years. You should become an expert in something. Then alone will your worth be properly recognized. If you become an expert, even if only as a barber, you will come to be respected.

---

[1] K. M. Munshi

[2] *Vide* Vol. LX, p. 458.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Ramdas Gandhi Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

32. LETTER TO PYARELAL

Sunday [After *April 29, 1935*][1]

CHI. PYARELAL,

Do not hurt the feelings of either Mother or Sushila. Calmly put up with the illness.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

33. NOTE TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH

[*April, 1935*][2]

You took neem leaves pounded into pulp. That may have made you feel hot. Pounded leaves is not the same thing as the juice of the leaves. They are as different as polished rice is from unpolished rice. The leaves should not be strained. I used to strain the vegetables a little when I was taking vegetable juice. That way you will not get the feeling of heat. You may take as much tamarind as you may find necessary. If you want to take a little more you may do so. Milk will satisfy the hunger. The quantity of the milk cannot be increased too soon. If green vegetable is palatable you may take five *tolas* to begin with. Once you are able to digest it you may increase the quantity by five *tolas* at a time, going up to 20 *tolas*. This should be taken thrice. You do get goat's milk at 10.30 and fresh cow's milk in the morning and evening.

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[1] This letter is written on the back of a letter to Gandhiji dated April 29, 1935.

[2] As supplied by the addressee

From the Hindi original: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

34. *LETTER TO RANI VIDYAVATI*

May 1, 1935

CHI. VIDYAVATI,

Why are you making yourself miserable? When you want to die a heroic death and tread the path of the brave, how can you show such weakness of heart? You must display heroism under all conditions. When one is afflicted with sickness, there are more occasions to show courage. She is a true heroine who does not forget God in pain, shows concern for the nurse, is content with whatever nursing she gets, takes the least amount of service and is always prepared to embrace death. Being roused to battle and die is heroism of an inferior kind.

I am sending a telegram to Dr. Roy today. Whatever happens, you will not show anger or condemn anyone. You are not going to leave the Seva Sadan in a hurry.

Send a comforting letter to Tara. Tell her not to cry. If you smile even in your moment of sorrow, others will not cry either.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Rani Vidyavati Papers. Courtesy: Gandhi National Museum and Library

35. *LETTER TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH*

May 1, 1935

CHI. SUMANGAL,

How could you help it if questions arose in your mind? It was proper that you told me. I am giving my attention to Ramakrishna. I have not done anything more. I am watching. If anything comes to your notice unsought do let me know.

BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

36. LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

May 4, 1935

DEAR DR. GOPICHAND[1],

God will bless you in your new dedication as He has done hitherto . . . [2]

Shri Sharma[3] of Khurja will probably send you a list of medical books to be bought. Will you please get them for him? Perhaps the booksellers will quote cheap rates to you.

BAPU

DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA
LAHORE, PUNJAB

From the original : Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

37. NOTE TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH

May 6, 1935

Take fruit and milk now. Afterwards fasting. Wrap your head with a piece of cloth.[4] I used to do that. I am teaching you true poverty. There is in fact no poverty here. In a poor man's home there is one charkha for all. Each charkha should be worked for at least twelve hours. Here it is not worked even for half an hour. That is why I told you to spin on my charkha. This promotes the feeling of oneness. It teaches humility. There is no feeling of mine and thine. Whatever there is belongs to all. This apparently small matter has far-reaching implications.

From the Hindi original : Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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[1] Agent-in-General of the All-India Village Industries Association for the Punjab

[2] Omissions in this and other letters to the addressee indicate words that are undecipherable in the source.

[3] H. L. Sharma; *vide* also Vol. LXI, p. 31.

[4] The addressee had said that spinning on the *takli* irritated the hair.

38. *LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR*

WARDHA,
May 9, 1935

CHI. LILAVATI,

I have your letter. It is good you went to Rajkot with your brother. Now come whenever you find the time. You certainly have my permission to come.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

39. *LETTER TO RAJARAM R. BHOLE*

WARDHA,
May 11, 1935

MY DEAR RAJARAM,

Why should you be torn to pieces. You should simply do what your body allows. See friends there and find out what is possible.

Yours,
BAPU

SHRI RAJARAM BHOLE
C/O MINERVA TALKIES
POONA

From the original : R. R. Bhole Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

40. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

May 18, 1935

CHI. LILAVATI,

You have entered your twenty-eighth year. That means you are growing. Are you also growing mentally and emotionally? May you be of sound health. May your spirit of service grow. May you be more firm and may you find your peace of mind.

I hope to reach Borsad by the 23rd. I shall return from there on the 31st.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

41. LETTER TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH

May 20, 1935

CHI. SUMANGAL,

I have your letter. I know what value to place on the sentiments it contains. I know how permanent they are. Remain quiet for a couple of months. Improve your health. Eat sparingly. Find pleasure in what is good. If what pleases is not good, give it up. Do not worry about the future. Take good care of the present.

This covers everything. I shall be at Borsad from the 23rd to the 31st. Then Wardha.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

42. *LETTER TO RAJARAM R. BHOLE*

As at Wardha,
May 25, 1935

DEAR RAJARAM,

It is most difficult to guide you. My own general advice to all has been to stop all college education as soon as they have had in their own opinion enough of it and enter business. Those who have love of education truly begin it after the college course. I would like you to succeed as an honest, able businessman who would earn not for himself but for all. And in every case you must consider your body.

Yours,
Bapu

From the original : R. R. Bhole Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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43. *LETTER TO PRIVATE SECRETARY TO VICEROY*[1]

Wardha,
June 6, 1935

DEAR MR. MIEVILLE,

All differences vanish in the midst of the awful calamity in Quetta[2] following almost in the wake of Bihar.

I got the enclosed from Hyderabad today to which I sent a reply[3], copy of which is also enclosed herewith.

Hardly had I sent the reply when the voice within told me that I must enforce in my own action what I had advised Shri Jairamdas and Prof. Kripalani—both Congress secretaries. Hence this private approach to the highest authority.

---

[1] A copy of this letter and a copy each of the enclosures mentioned in it were sent to Dr. Rajendra Prasad by Mahadev Desai with a forwarding note dated June 7, 1935.

[2] Quetta had been rocked by a severe earthquake on May 31, 1935.

[3] *Vide* Vol. LXI, p. 142.

If I am permitted, I should love to proceed to Quetta myself and do whatever is possible.

My submission is that a small relief committee should be formed comprising all sections to concert measures of relief. In my opinion it is necessary to take the public into confidence about everything that may be done regarding alleviation of distress.

Will you please put this before His Excellency and if possible wire reply as to permission for me to proceed to Quetta? If the permission is granted, it should include sufficient member[s] to enable me to do effective work.

E. C. MIEVILLE, ESQ.
PRIVATE SECRETARY TO
H. E. THE VICEROY

From a copy: Dr. Rajendra Prasad Papers. Courtesy: National Archives of India

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44. *LETTER TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH*

WARDHA,
June 6, 1935

CHI. SUMANGAL,

I have your letter. It is good you went to your mother. May the peace you have found endure. May you gain in self-control. May you have excellent health.

I read Trine's *In Tune with the Infinite* many years ago. I remember I enjoyed it. Rabindranath's *Sadhana* certainly merits being read again and again. Remember one thing: pondering is better than reading. Even if you read just a little, but digest it well, it is good.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

45. TELEGRAM TO RAJENDRA PRASAD[1]

WARDHAGANJ,
June 10, 1935

BABU RAJENDRA PRASAD
BHUSAVAL

THINK PROPOSED ACTION RIGHT.

GANDHI

RAJENDRA PRASAD
CONGRESS PRESIDENT
CAMP DHULIA

From the original : Dr. Rajendra Prasad Papers. Courtesy : National Archives of India

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46. LETTER TO RANI VIDYAVATI

WARDHA,
June 12, 1935

CHI. VIDYA,

If you are learning Bengali there and if everyone is envious of your cheerfulness, I shall congratulate you. What right does one who is both mother and father have to worry? Also, is there a rule for one who is only a mother that she must remain free from anxiety?

There is no chance of my going to Calcutta now.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Rani Vidyavati Papers. Courtesy : Gandhi National Museum and Library

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[1] This was in reply to a telegram from the addressee dated June 9, which read : "Your letter. Government express inability grant entry to relief parties giving reasons in reply my telegram. Wishing not embarrass Government, propose asking people organize relief refugees as suggested by Government. Reply immediate. Posting correspondence."

47. *LETTER TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH*

WARDHA,
June 12, 1935

CHI. SUMANGAL,

I have your letter. We shall never own defeat, even if we forfeit life itself.

I have gone through the diary. I have pointed out the remedy. The dignosis is accurate. If possible refrain from thinking too much and take up some work of service. It could be the service of your mother or of the children of Rajgarh. I am surprised at whatever Prabhavati wrote to you about Kanta. You did well to stop her and to have restrained your own curiosity.

You must cling to Ramanama.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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48. *LETTER TO RAJARAM R. BHOLE*

WARDHA,
June 26, 1935

MY DEAR RAJARAM,

Though it is fairly cool now it is nothing like Poona yet. If you come after the first week of July, it would be pleasant. But you are at liberty to come earlier if you wish to.

Yours,
BAPU

SJT. RAJARAM BHOLE
C/o MINERVA TALKIES
POONA CITY

From the original : R. R. Bhole Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

49. *LETTER TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH*

WARDHA,
July 3, 1935

CHI. SUMANGAL,

I have your letter. If for the sake of your parents you must earn money and go out for the purpose or take to writing you should do so. Maybe in so doing you will find greater peace. Do not feel yourself bound by any past commitments. That alone is binding which brings us peace and promotes dharma Dharma means dharma for the moment.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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50. *LETTER TO TARADEVI*

MAGANWADI, WARDHA,
July 3, 1935

CHI. TARA,

I have your letter as also those of your mother and Laxmidevi[1]. We must do our best and then accept whatever happens. Where can we find a better Seva Sadan than the one where your mother is? The path of service is difficult. Happiness and unhappiness are all matters of the mind. We must regard both alike. If Laxmidevi has reached there, I shall not write to her separately.

Blessings from
BAPU

TARADEVI
BARUA KOTHI
SANDILA
DIST. HARDOI

From the Hindi original: Rani Vidyavati Papers. Courtesy: Gandhi National Museum and Library

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[1] Rani Vidyavati's sister-in-law

51. LETTER TO PADMAJA NAIDU

WARDHA,
July 15, 1935

DEAR PLAYMATE,

How stupid of you not to have broken your journey because I was silent. You did not need to hear my voice. And you could have made sure yourself that I was not ill. I expect better behaviour next time.

Love.

BAPU

[PS.]

How is the Shuaib family?

MISS PADMAJA NAIDU
C/O SHUAIB QURESHI
PRIME MINISTER
BHOPAL

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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52. LETTER TO PURUSHOTTAM K. JERAJANI

WARDHA,
August 8, 1935

BHAI KAKUBHAI,

I have found no mistake in your work. Even before I got our letter I had already written to Ratubhai[1] that for the sake of the inquiry the transfer of a person who has to be transferred for some other reason should not be stopped. The inquiry will of course go on. Let me know when your inquiry is over. Do not hesitate to write to me out of pity, thinking that I am overburdened with work. I am very pleased that it had occurred to you early that the spinners' wages should be increased. The fact that the idea had occurred to my co-workers before it did to me makes my path easier. You may therefore take the credit for being original. I now wish that you should also earn the credit for not letting that affect the sales too much. You have no doubt taken the first bold step in that direction.

---

[1] Ratubhai Desai, representative of the workers of the Bombay Bhandar of the All-India Spinners' Association

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C. W. 10833. Courtesy: Purushottam K. Jerajani

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53. *LETTER TO ANAND T. HINGORANI*

August 12, 1935

DEAR FRIEND,

1. No matter how weak a person is in body, if it is a shame to flee, he will stand his ground and die at his post. This would be non-violence and bravery.
2. No matter how weak he is, he will use what strength he has in inflicting injury on his opponent and die in the attempt. This is bravery but not non-violence.
3. If when his duty is to face danger, he flees, it is cowardice.
4. In the first case the man will have love or charity in him. In the 2nd and 3rd cases there would be dislike or distrust and fear.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

From a photostat: C. W. 11072. Courtesy: Anand T. Hingorani

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54. *LETTER TO PURUSHOTTAM K. JERAJANI*

WARDHA,
August 14, 1935

DEAR KAKUBHAI,

I have not fully read the accompanying letter. Mahadev may be still there. If so, give the letter to him to read. Bhai Kishorelal has read it. He thinks that you should read it. If you have any comments to make after reading it, you may do so. If you meet Mahadev, return the letter to him after reading it.

If you do not meet him, send it back to me. Make a full inquiry into the allegation.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati: C. W. 10834. Courtesy: Purushottam K. Jerajani

55. LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

WARDHA,
August 16, 1935

DEAR DR. GOPICHAND,

As I have now begun to take a direct part in the administration of the A.I.S.A. affairs, I am expected to deal with various standing complaints. One of these is about the Punjab branch. I would like you to give me your brief replies . . . Khadi Bhandar opened by H. Kotak is required in Lahore. There are complaints about the management of the Kashmir branch. I would like to have your views about that branch.

Yours,
BAPU

[PS.]

Please return the enclosed when replying.

From the original: Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

56. *LETTER TO RAJARAM R. BHOLE*

WARDHA,
August 18, 1935

DEAR RAJARAM,

I have your p. c. If you feel that your health will permit, I have no objection to your finishing your course in college. But you will come to a decision after seeing Dr. Ambedkar[1].

Yours sincerely,
BAPU

SHRI RAJARAM BHOLE
C/o K. D. BANKER, ESQ.
EMPIRE OF INDIA LIFE HOUSE
WALKER ROAD, NAGPUR

From the original: R. R. Bhole Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

57. *LETTER TO PURUSHOTTAM K. JERAJANI*

WARDHA,
August 22, 1935

BHAI KAKUBHAI,

I have your letter. I for one am satisfied by your reply. Since you are keen I will read Ratubhai's letter so that justice is done to him. Actually, the letter is not even meant for me. It is not for me to do justice to Ratubhai or anybody else. Here doing justice to Ratubhai only means that I should not entertain any unjust thought about him even in my mind. Ratubhai seems to be making a great mistake. The judgment about his Sevak Sangh has already been given. The personal matter has therefore ended there. During that inquiry Ratubhai talked about the whole management of the Bhandar. I suggested an inquiry. Even if I had not done so, it was my duty as President to inquire into the matter. Ratubhai's resigning does not absolve him from his duty of co-operating in the inquiry. But that is a matter for him to consider. Ratubhai in his letters keeps himself in the centre and not the improvement of the Bhandar, that is, the interest of khadi. And by doing so he is making himself miserable. I do not have to think about anything except the policy of the Bhandar and the interest of khadi. It is not therefore my duty at present to go through his letters. When you have completed your inquiry and made your recommendations I will definitely think about the matter if necessary and if I feel that injustice has been done to Ratubhai and others.

---

[1] B. R. Ambedkar, to whom Gandhiji had written about the addressee; *vide* Vol. LXI, p. 470.

It is good that you feel that both Vithaldas[1] and Ratubhai may be right. In fact the truth may lie somewhere else altogether. But God alone knows it. Ratubhai sees the episode from one point of view and Vithaldas from another. From their respective points of view, both may be right.

If you wish you may certainly show this letter to Ratubhai. I tried all means available to me to satisfy him. I troubled Kishorelal in whom he has faith. I asked you to intervene, because he has faith in you, too. Finally Mahadev felt that he could help him and he also lent a hand. If I cannot satisfy him with all this, then I suppose that is fate. In trying to satisfy him or anybody else my interest can only be the good of *Daridranarayana*. I can think of nothing else but that.

Blessings from
BAPU

PURUSHOTTAM KANJI JERAJANI

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C. W. 10835. Courtesy : Purushottam K. Jerajani

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58. *LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA*

WARDHA,
August 25, 1935

DEAR DR. GOPICHAND,

I am going through the papers left by you. Shankerlal tells me that the receipt for the monies received through Mrs. Hariram and others were given in the name ... In any case the disposal of the funds should be held over till the whole thing is settled. I returned the original letters you left here.

Yours,
BAPU

From the original : Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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[1] Vithaldas K. Jerajani, addressee's elder brother

59. LETTER TO SARALADEVI SARABHAI

WARDHA,
August 25, 1935

DEAR SISTER,

You are passing through considerable ordeals. Only yesterday I heard that Vikram[1] had been seriously ill. You yourself have not recovered yet. I see much sickness around. I strongly feel that nature cure, simple food, pure air, is all that a man needs. How far can we improve the body which is more delicate than a glass bangle? My blessings to all the children.

There is no need to reply to this letter.

The enclosed letter is for Deenabandhu.

Blessings from
MOHANDAS

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11142. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

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60. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

WARDHA,
August 26, 1935

CHI. MRIDU,

Shankerlal has sent me a copy of your letter for my reply. For want of time, your letter remained unanswered for a few days.

It is true that I have permitted the use of Indian mill thread and even foreign thread for embroidery on khadi if hand-spun thread cannot be had. But deep within me I would still wish that we could manage without either. I have no doubt given that concession in the hope that that would lead to increased sale of khadi. I do not remember the Charkha Sangh having made any rule for it. After knowing this much, do what you think proper.

---

[1] Addressee's son

I should send a copy of this letter to Shankerlal. But surely I can saddle you with that responsibility to save time and money?

You will all be doing well.

Come when you can.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : C. W. 11195. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

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61. *LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA*

WARDHA,
August 27, 1935

DEAR DR. GOPICHAND,

Here is Puri's letter to Kunver Saheb. You will do what is best. My firm opinion is that the Simla Stores should be given up if it is being run at a loss. The stock can be distributed am [ongst] those who will . . . sale. Rajkum . . . a helper. If there is one who can card, gin and spin on the *takli* as well as the wheel, he will be useful. If there is none such available, you should wait till you get such a person. From Puri's letter it would appear that he won't be happy till he can stay with his mother. It is a most natural desire for a son to cherish. But then he can give us only a limited . . . I would like you to . . . summary . . . me . . . but the other Stores . . . [Pu]njab?

Yours,
BAPU

From the original : Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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62. *LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI*

WARDHA,
September 5, 1935

CHI. MATHURADAS,

I have your letter. Mahadev has replied to your earlier letter. Today Mahadev is on the train to Prayag. Jawaharlal must have slipped away last evening. Still, the trip could not be avoided.

A more exhaustive statement of accounts of the Tilak Swaraj Fund than the one you have sent has already been published in octavo size. This is not it. If this is all you have, then it is incomplete. It would be proper to write that the printed version is available only at Revashankarbhai's or at the All-India office. I have not gone deeply into it. You will have gone through my correspondence with J. which is with Sardar. It is not to be published. I have nothing to say in my defence. The [charges] against the Congress can be answered only by producing the accounts. I am saving your letter for Mahadev. Enquire at Revashankarbhai's for other major items in the accounts.

I hope you are all in good health.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

63. *LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA*

WARDHA,
September 14, 1935

DEAR DR. GOPICHAND,

I have your belated reply. But better late than never. As for the funds which you claim as donations given to you personally, as I have not studied all the ramifications I would like you to abide by Shankerlal's judgment. Without admitting any error of judgment and without any reflection being cast upon you, you could simply get the funds converted into donations for the A. I. S. A. Rajkumari has decided to stop the khadi Bhandar in her own place. Therefore the sooner we close the Simla Bhandar the better. I shall be prepared to give Puri the training in self-sufficient khadi whenever he could be conveniently sent. I understand what you say about keeping the accounts in our Bhandars in Urdu and you are right in what you say. I am carefully going into everything in connection with Harjivan. Without perhaps meaning it, he succeeds in displeasing his associates. I am trying to induce him to leave Kashmir work and take rest for the time . . . he recovers, his services can be utilized for less . . . . I would, therefore, like you to give me your suggestion foı the conduct of the Kashmir Bhandar and its branches . . . your warning that all correspondence and the questions regarding the management of khadi work in the Punjab should be through you, if you are to keep yourself in touch with the movement and are to be really responsible for its growth in the Punjab. All Bhandars that are being run at a loss are certainly to be closed as quickly as possible, including, of course, the Peshawar Bhandar.

What you tell me about Khan Pirbux and Dr. Alam makes painful reading. We have to cut our way through all weathers, fair or foul and rely upon God's help in so far as we may be walking along the path of truth and love.

Yours sincerely,
BAPU

From the original : Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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64. LETTER TO RAJARAM R. BHOLE

WARDHA,
September 14, 1935

MY DEAR RAJARAM,

I have your letter and am glad you have at last seen Dr. Ambedkar. He is right about the profession of law. Only my conviction is that you will not be able to stand the strain of studies and I would not risk the sacrifice of your health upon any consideration whatsoever. I do not share the fear he has about going to villages. The Sangh will not endanger your health in the pursuit of the work that may be assigned to you. Anyway if you are satisfied with social service, you should give this very good offer a trial. The moment you find it uncongenial for your body you may give it up. Of course you should dispel the fear of instability about the Sangh. You will not be taking any permanent step. You will be taking no risk if the Sangh is extinct.

Yours sincerely,
BAPU

From the original : R. R. Bhole Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

65. *LETTER TO PURUSHOTTAM K. JERAJANI*

WARDHA,
September 20, 1935

BHAI KAKUBHAI,

Shankerlal has sent to me your letter addressed to him.

We have got three alternatives :

1. to close the shop if they attack,
2. to defend ourselves,
3. to seek police protection.

Since we cannot resort to the first two alternatives, only the third remains. The fourth atlernative is to agree to a *panch* if they propose it. But how can we hope for such good fortune? If there is anybody in it[1] who has some sense of responsibility, we must persuade him to act in a straightforward manner.

There seems no need to remove anybody because he is in the Sevak Sangh. Whether or not somebody is in the Sevak Sangh, if he does not abide by our discipline, we may remove him giving him the reason or without doing so.

In the end, however, the question may remain whether we will be able to get persons acceptable to us. However, there should be no problem if we can find loyal persons.

If you wish you may continue to write to me.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C. W. 10836. Courtesy: Purushottam Kanji Jerajani

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[1] The Sevak Sangh

66. LETTER TO PURUSHOTTAM K. JERAJANI

WARDHA,
September 22, 1935

BHAI KAKUBHAI,

Bhai Vallabhdas's case is complicated. Does he have any money? Is it invested in the Bhandar? At one time I think he had invested his money in it. What post has he been given now? Does it carry a salary of Rs. 80? If he were not employed in that post could he earn that much or more elsewhere? I can arrive at a decision if I know all this in detail. Write to me whatever you wish without hesitation.

If you wish, you may show this letter to Bhai Vithaldas and Vallabhdas. They too, if they wish, may write to me about this. They may also come and see me if they wish.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : C.W. 10837. Courtesy : Purushottam Kanji Jerajani

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67. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

WARDHA,
September 23, 1935

CHI. MATHURADAS,

I can understand your embarrassment. I have written to Nilkanth that he should undertake to send the amount to Gosibehn[1]. I hope your affairs are going on well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

---

[1] Gosibehn Captain

68. LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

WARDHA,
September 24, 1935

DEAR DR. GOPICHAND,

I have your letter. I am conferring with Shankerlal as to what should be done. My own inclination is to hand the charge to Meerut people because they already know the working of the Kashmir Bhandar. If that proposition does not commend itself to Shankerlal or to the council, your alternate proposals will be helpful. Let us decide upon certain propositions as decisive, namely, that we shall not run any Bhandar at a loss. Secondly we shall not make purchases even in the open market for replenishing our stocks if we do not know what wages the workers at those articles have received. This applies to the market *pattus*[1] you have mentioned. It is not enough for us to know that the *pattus* come within our definition of khadi or swadeshi.

Yours sincerely,
BAPU

DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA
LAHORE

From a copy: Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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69. LETTER TO RAJARAM R. BHOLE

WARDHA,
October 4, 1935

MY DEAR RAJARAM,

I have your letter. I appreciate your frankness. I can understand your desire to get good government service and I quite believe that your having anything to do with the Sangh or me is bound to affect your chances. It is wisdom to face facts however painful they may be. You will, however, continue to write to me from time to time and consult your health no matter what you decide to do.

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[1] Felt

Savant[1] was here for a week. He seemed to enjoy his time here. All of us liked him very much.

Yours,
BAPU

SJT. RAJARAM BHOLE
MINERVA TALKIES
POONA CITY

From the original : R. R. Bhole Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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70. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

WARDHA,
October 14, 1935

CHI. MATHURADAS,

Here is a telegram from New York and the reply to it. Please copy it out on a telegraph form and send it. We do not have to pay any money as you will see. It is possible that as the cable went to Sabarmati the money also went there. But there should be some authority at Bombay Central. Of course, they may not accept it because the 14th is already over. Even then there is no harm. In that case we would be spared the trouble. We do not want to spend any money. If it cannot be done, return the telegram and the reply.

You will be well. Taramati and the children too will be well. Do not ask how burdened I am.[2]

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] K. S. Savant, a Harijan sculptor, to whom Gandhiji gave a testimonial; *vide* Vol. LXI, p. 462.

[2] This last sentence has been included in Vol. LXII, p. 36.

71. LETTER TO C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR

MAGANWADI, WARDHA,
October 24, 1935

DEAR FRIEND,

I have your letter. Whilst the language you have chosen to describe the attitude of your co-workers, including myself, is unhappy, the substance of what you say is undeniable. There is no want of regard and affection for you. Your great services for the country will command them at any time; but the country has adopted a faith which runs counter to that of the days when you were one of the most active workers. I am not therefore surprised that you found the atmosphere in Madras unresponsive to your presentation of the situation and the remedy.[1]

In spite of all the desire to appreciate your viewpoint, it has not been possible to follow it here. In my opinion there is no cause for grief or complaint. Is it not well that although our views differ, we can retain our affection and old friendship unimpaired?

Do come by all means, whenever you have a few days to spare.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

From the original: C. Vijayaraghavachariar Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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[1] The A.I.C.C. had met at Madras on October 17 and 18 to consider the question of office acceptance and that of the Congress and the States. The Committee felt that considering the long interval that would elapse before the provincial elections under the new Constitution, as well as the uncertain character of the political conditions during the period, it would be inadvisable to commit the Congress to any decision regarding office acceptance.

72. *LETTER TO JAIJI PETIT*

[Before *October 25, 1935*][1]

DEAR SISTER,

Mithubehn has sent to me your letter to your sister for my perusal. She did it because I had inquired about your health. I try to get news of you from every possible source. Do write to me sometimes. I can see that you will find your peace of mind only by patiently enduring your suffering, and God has given you the strength to do so. I do not therefore intend to write to you a letter of sympathy even in your illness. Instead I wish that your God-given gift of preserving your peace of mind in any and every kind of suffering should go on increasing. Happiness and suffering are part of our lot. Who can say with certainty that what we think to be happiness or sorrow is really so? The best thing for us, therefore, is to be able to preserve our peace of mind in all circumstances and thank God for being able to do so.

What shall I write to you about the situation here? Do you get *Harijan*? Please let me know if you do not. I will send copies. How long do you intend to stay there? Andrews is here at present. He will leave tomorrow. Is Hilda with you? Write and tell me about everybody.

Ba sends you her blessings.

Blessings from
BAPU

JAIJI PETIT

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G. N. 3158

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[1] From the contents this letter appears to have been written before the one to the addressee dated October 25, 1935; *vide* Vol. LXII, p. 62.

73. *LETTER TO SARALADEVI SARABHAI*

MAGANWADI, WARDHA,
October 25, 1935

DEAR SISTER,

I hope you are benefiting from the treatment of the Calcutta doctor and that it will bring you full recovery. I hope that you will regain your health completely and return home safe and sound after spending a few days at Wardha.

May the New Year bring happiness to all of you. And may you have the most of that which will give you a sense of fulfilment in life.

Give my blessings to Bharati[1] and Suhrid[2] when you write to them. I hope both of them are in good health.

Blessings from
MOHANDAS

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11143. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

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74. *LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI*

WARDHA,
October 29, 1935

CHI. MRIDULA,

I should not really forgive you. But when many undeserving people escape from me, what is surprising about your escaping? Do come over.

Why should Gautam[3] and Vikram also not spend a day here? Tempt them to come if you can give the place a good certificate after your visit.

You can have the reply to the second part of your letter after coming here.

Khurshedbehn[4] will be here.

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[1] & [2] Addressee's daughter and son

[3] Addressee's brother

[4] Khurshed Naoroji, grand-daughter of Dadabhai Naoroji

I had received the telegram of Diwali greetings from your parents.

I am glad to read that Mother's health is improving.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11196. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

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75. *LETTER TO C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR*

MAGANWADI, WARDHA,
October 30, 1935

DEAR FRIEND,

I have your very interesting letter. I simply cannot tax my mind about offices. I do not even know that the Constitution is coming. That it has received the King's assent is not of much consequence. There's many a slip between the cup and the lip. The inauguration is still far off. Many events may happen to upset the apple-cart, and why should I worry over a thing which is highly problematical? But I can say this, that if the Constitution does actually begin to work and if I find that there is no escape from taking office, that is, if the Congress is represented in the Legislatures, I would not hesitate to say so. Just at present, I can see many an escape from the predicament.

I do not think we need speculate about the Congress President because Jawaharlal Nehru has definitely written, saying that if the responsibility is entrusted to him, he will shoulder the burden. There should be no difficulty about his return in March.

You will be welcome whenever you come. From January my movements become uncertain.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

From the original: C. Vijayaraghavachariar Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

76. LETTER TO PYARELAL

WARDHA,
November 2, 1935

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have your letter. I shall not press you to come. I would be happy if you did. Mahadev and I are also hard-pressed. But if you cannot remain cheerful after coming here, do go to Calcutta. Your place is where you can be more at peace.

I am not able to understand this combination of faith and despair in you. May God grant you peace.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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77. LETTER TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH

MAGANWADI, WARDHA,
November 8, 1935

CHI. SUMANGAL,

Your letters are received regularly. I destroy them after reading. I do not see any need to give you any advice at the moment. Do what you consider best. "None who works for self-redemption meets with an evil destiny."[1]

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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[1] *Bhagavad Gita*, VI, 40

78. *LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI*[1]

WARDHA,
November 12, 1935

CHI. MATHURADAS,

The sight of your handwriting has become rare of late. But it is a matter of satisfaction that your letters come at the opportune moment.

Now I am nursing the hope that you will keep writing, even if it is only a post-card. Sardar procrastinated and now he is suffering in the same proportion.[2] He knows how to suffer pain and he can even laugh while in pain. So there is nothing to worry about.

Prithviraj's case will have happily ended yesterday. Of course, today I have not received the expected letter. It may still arrive by the evening mail.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI
74 WALKESHWAR ROAD
BOMBAY

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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79. *LETTER TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH*

WARDHA,
November 12, 1935

CHI. SUMANGAL,

I have been receiving your letters. It would be best to stick to a diet of milk and fruit when you go anywhere. In doing so we give no trouble to the host and our purpose is also served. In the early days of the Ashram this was the rule all members had to follow. It would be even better to carry some fruit with you. If at some place milk is not available you should make do with fruit. It should be explained that the reason for this rule is not self-control but considerations of health.

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[1] The first two paragraphs have already been reproduced in Vol. LXII, p. 111.

[2] Vallabhbhai Patel had undergone an operation for piles on November 9, 1935.

Blessings from
BAPU

SUMANGAL PRAKASH
NAVASHAKTI
PATNA

From a photostat of the Hindi: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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80. LETTER TO SARALADEVI SARABHAI

WARDHA,
November 16, 1935

DEAR SISTER,

I have your very affectionate letter. You have mastered well the language of politeness. A person who knows how to be polite naturally acquires that language. I see this in your case. I am very happy to learn that your health is gradually improving. I have received the two baskets of fruit you sent with Mridula with special instructions. I ate the fruit and shared it with my co-workers. I shall be happy if you can break your journey here when you go to Ahmedabad after fully regaining your health.

Blessings from
MOHANDAS

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11144. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

81. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

WARDHA,
November 18, 1935

CHI. MRIDULA,

I wish that you would show yourself here every three months.

I have written about Roshni.

As for staying on the only consideration should be what you can do from there.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11197. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

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82. LETTER TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH

November 19, 1935

CHI. SUMANGAL,

This sort of thing is common among friends. You must tell Sumantji, in good humour and without any anger, that you are a poor man and bring with you only enough food for yourself for the day and if you lose or part with some of it you have to go hungry that day. I am sure if you tell him this he will never again tamper with your food. Millions of poor people are forced to do this kind of thing. Dishonest traders often sell for flour stuff that is quite inedible. Poor people have then to go hungry. For they have no money to buy provisions with. That is what happens in jails too. And is not this world also a kind of jail?

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI SUMANGAL PRAKASH
NAVASHAKTI
PATNA

From a photostat of the Hindi: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

83. LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

WARDHA,
November 23, 1935

DEAR DR. GOPICHAND,

I have copies of your letters to Shankerlal. So far as I can see, I have nothing to say on the arrangements about the Lahore Bhandar. But in this matter Shankerlal's word has to be final for he knows ever so much more than I do.

Yours sincerely,
BAPU

DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA
13 MALL ROAD
LAHORE

From the original: Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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84. TELEGRAM TO HANUMANT SAHAI

WARDHA,
[On or before *November 28, 1935*][1]

YOUR TELEGRAM[2]. INTERVENTION IMPROPER WITHOUT FULL KNOWLEDGE. CIRCUMSTANCES SUGGEST IMPARTIAL ARBITRATION SUBJECT MEN'S RETURN WORK AND BOTH PARTIES ACCEPTING AWARD AS FINAL BINDING.[3]

GANDHI

Bapu—A Unique Association, Vol. II, p. 160

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[1] The telegram was reproduced by Mahadev Desai in his letter to G. D. Birla dated November 28, 1935.

[2] Which read : "Birla Mill's labourers strike six days. Heavy wage cuts. Authorities unyielding. Police and goondas employed. Read *National Call*. Pray intervene".

[3] The workers of the Birla Cotton Mill had gone on strike in protest against reduction in their wages; *vide* also Vol. LXII, pp. 153 and 163.

85. TELEGRAM TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

WARDHAGANJ,
November 28, 1935

MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI
78 WALKESHWAR RD.
BY

PYARELAL LEAVING EVENING. MEET STATION.

BAPU

From the original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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86. LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

WARDHA,
December 1, 1935

DEAR DR. GOPICHAND,

I have your letter enclosing the budget. Its critical examination will rest with Shankerlal. So far as I am concerned, I shall require to be satisfied that no new obligations are taken by the central organization. Provinces may frame their budgets in any manner they like (1) so long as they do not run a single store at loss, (2) so long as they pay the minimum wage to all the artisans whom they employ — the minimum wage being fixed for each province in consultation with the centre, and (3) so long as the budget convincingly shows that the provincial organization can be run without loss.

You suggest that no interest should be charged. But it has been suggested by others that ½ per cent should be charged for covering expenses of the centre.

Yours,
BAPU

DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA
LAHORE

From a copy: Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

87. LETTER TO PYARELAL

December 1, 1935

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have received your letter. Now do not leave anything wanting with regard to food and get well soon. There is no need to put up with pain of any kind. Your present duty is to build your health properly.

You have not written anything about Mother. Where is she staying? Who is treating her?

Rajkumari arrived yesterday. Her health is indifferent. She has cough. She was making enquiries about you.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

88. LETTER TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH

WARDHA,
December 6, 1935

CHI. SUMANGAL,

Your letters come regularly. My advice is that you should give up your vows about food. You should eat in the mess like everybody and be content with whatever is served. Once you have eaten, you should forget about food. Maybe in this way you will develop self-control automatically. Today the palate pulls you in one direction, the mind in another. This is regrettable. However, if my analysis is wrong my advice may be discarded.

BAPU[1]

From a photostat of the Hindi: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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[1] This is in Mahadev Desai's hand, Gandhiji having been taken ill with blood-pressure and advised complete rest.

89. *LETTER TO GIRIJAPRASAD CHINUBHAI*

[Before *December 7, 1935*][1]

BHAI GIRIJAPRASAD : SIR CHINUBHAI MADHAVLAL,

It is against my nature to announce beforehand what I intend to do. Doing so makes me feel ashamed. Quite often, an impression has got around of my having done something only after having announced my intention of doing it. Your letter raises such a question. I really consider myself disqualified for the Sahitya Parishad. But I was forgetting that you brothers and sisters want to use me to keep the Parishad free from feuds. Doubtless I can be useful in that way and I am accepting your invitation in the hope that I may be instrumental in doing something in that direction. Keep my burden as light as possible. It is a matter of consolation to me that you are the Chairman of the Reception Committee. I take it for granted that the Parishad would not be meeting at least this year. If it is scheduled to meet some time in January or after that, there will be no inconvenience. But it will suit me if it is scheduled for as early as possible in the new year. I have destroyed your personal letter.

Regards from
MOHANDAS GANDHI

PRESIDENT
SAHITYA MANDAL
G. S. SAMMELAN
AHMEDABAD

From a copy of the Gujarati : Pyarelal Papers. Courtesy: Pyarelal

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[1] From the reference to the Gujarati Sahitya Parishad which was to be held in January, 1936 and over which Gandhiji was to preside but could not as he fell ill on December 7, 1935; *vide* Vol. LXII, footnotes on pp. 75 and 169. The Parishad was subsequently held from October 31 to November 2, 1936; *vide* Vol. LXIII, pp. 407-21.

90. *LETTER TO SARALADEVI SARABHAI*

[December 8, 1935][1]

DEAR SISTER,

I have been wanting to write to you and then forgetting. As far as I can see sitting here, I think I shall be staying at the Vidyapith when I visit Ahmedabad. I certainly would have liked to stay with you, but in view of your health and my engagements there I think it will be preferable for me to stay at the Vidyapith.

I hope you are well. I can see from Shankerlal's letter that the treatment at Calcutta has done you some good. Tell Chi. Mridu that I am not writing separately to her.

Blessings from
MOHANDAS

From the Gujarati original : C. W. 11145. Courtesy : Sarabhai Foundation

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91. *NOTE TO FULCHAND JAIN*

January 4, 1936

I am reminded of my 21-day fast[2] on this death anniversary of Maulana Saheb. He brought for me a beautiful cow when my fast was over and told me that she was a memento from him for Hindu-Muslim Unity. How nice it would be if keeping this incident in mind, we worked for Hindu-Muslim unity.

M. K. GANDHI

From a photostat of the Hindi: C. W. 11070. Courtesy: Fulchand Jain

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[1] From the postmark

[2] Which Gandhiji undertook from May 8 to May 29, 1933 for self-purification; *vide* Vol. LV, pp. 74-5.

92. *LETTER TO PYARELAL*

AHMEDABAD,
February 17, 1936

CHI. PYARELAL,

Everything that is humanly possible has been done. Jamnalalji talked with Yoga[1] for hours. Panditji and Lakshmibehn gave them all freedom. Jamnalalji made full use of it. He had prolonged discussions with Panditji and Lakshmibehn also. Yoga showed remarkable firmness. She has never thought about you. Although she is not particular about caste or community, she would have only a Maharashtrian Brahmin as her husband. She says she is not under pressure of any kind. I accept her word. Now your duty is clear. You must stop thinking of Yoga and relieve Panditji of his anxiety. You have already found the Yoga of your imagination. She is not this Yoga, though she may have been instrumental in bringing it about. This has been to your good in the sense that your constantly thinking of her has added to the purity of your soul. May your meditation of the Yoga of (your) imagination free you from all fears and temptations. But do not ever identify this physical Yoga with the Yoga of your imagination.

Let me stop with this today. I shall explain the rest on my arrival there. I shall explain to you your duty more clearly. Do not fail me in my expectations. Regain your health fully.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Niece of Narayan Moreshwar Khare

93. *LETTER TO ANASUYABEHN SARABHAI*

BARDOLI,
February 21, 1936

CHI. ANASUYABEHN,

Unable to resist your love I brought along your gift with me here. And today I had a look at them. The bowl is made in Germany. The razor of course is foreign-made, your dharma and mine lies in making do with things made in our villages (not even in our cities). For this reason and in pursuance of the ideal of non-possession I manage without many things. So while on tour I shave with whatever razor I can get hold of. In Wardha there is a nationalist barber who shaves me with a village-made razor. Such being the situation, how can I make use of your bowl and things? Also we must spend every pie with the utmost care because it belongs to the poor, but you go on lavishly spending on me. These thoughts strike me most poignantly here in Bardoli. Hence this letter.

Here they have built a hut for me under a mango tree. The walls are of dried stems of *tuver* in a framework of bamboo. Khadi has been used where found necessary. Not a single pie has been spent in making the hut. When I leave here all the building material of the hut will be returned to its original users. You will also be happy to see the hut. The village industry movement includes such activities.

I shall find some use for the things I have accepted. It will suffice if this incident remains a guide for the future. Not only should you not incur any unnecessary expense on my account, but anything you buy for me should be of village manufacture. The same consideration should apply to whatever you buy for yourself or for the Majoor Mahajan.

I am keeping fit. Here, too, I have enough leisure, so there is no cause for worry.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: S. N. 32837

94. LETTER TO PYARELAL

WARDHA,
February 28, 1936

CHI. PYARELAL,

I heard all from Jamnalalji. I was much pained. You must now wake up, get over the stupor and dedicate yourself to work. Come over if you wish. Let me know your programme. It may be as well if you come with me to Savli.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

95. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

DELHI,
March 15, 1936

CHI. LILAVATI,

I read your letter to Mahadev. You sound as if your staying in Maganwadi was a punishment. If you have knowingly stayed there, you must consider it your duty to stay there like that. One who follows religion with proper understanding always finds great joy before which other pleasures are insignificant. Other pleasures cannot ever be called joys. This joy does not depend on anything external. Hence, outside worries cannot ever diminish that joy. You will have passed the test only when you derive such joy from your pursuit of duty.

None of you is going to be inconvenienced if I can manage to go to Segaon. But, as you say, when that 'if' is removed, everything will fall in place. Hence, instead of thinking about the future steps let one step be enough for the present. Thus you will find contentment. When one step is taken, the next step will be right before you, is there any doubt about it?

I understand about the Kumarappa brothers. It is sufficient that you have done your duty. Congratulations on the recovery of Nanavati[1]. Are you keeping well? Everything is fine here.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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96. *LETTER TO PYARELAL*

DELHI,
March 17, 1936

CHI. PYARELAL,

I do not understand your behaviour. I am extremely pained. I shall be relieved if you can explain things to me. What are you doing, with whom and for what purpose? Is there any thought behind it? If you wish to see me I shall find the time. I shall be thankful even if you write. Have you abandoned everyone? You have brought shame to the training I gave you.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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97. *LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR*

March 23, 1936

CHI. LILAVATI,

Enclosed is Bhansalibhai's letter. Nanavati will have understood the meaning of the telegram. I have got the import of your letter. It will be enough for me if you bring credit to your work.

This will be all for the present since I have lots of other writing to do today.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Amritlal Nanavati

98. *LETTER TO JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN*

LUCKNOW,
April 16, 1936

CHI. JAYAPRAKASH,

You had a right to tell Jamnalalji what you did about me. But you should have taken me into confidence if you felt hurt. Prabha came to me with your consent as well as Brijkishore Babu's. I can say nothing about the influence I exercised on her. But by her association with me there has been no waning of her devotion to her father or love for her husband. True, Prabha does not give you conjugal satisfaction, because by her very nature she cannot. She was free from passion even before she came to me. We can only go by what she says. She told me this repeatedly and firmly and I accepted her word. Now tell me what I should do. If you want that Prabha should give up visiting me or writing to me, for your peace of mind I will accept this restriction.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Jayaprakash Narayan Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

99. *LETTER TO ANASUYABEHN SARABHAI*

April 28, 1936

CHI. ANASUYABEHN,

I have your letter. If you take hip-baths, live on fruit juice and have massages, I have no doubt that you will be rid of your complaint. For you garlic is not the best cure. Partial fasting, as I have explained above, is the only way you can get rid of the excess fat — or whatever you call it — in your body. It is possible that your system does not take kindly to fruit, in which case you will have to live on water. You will definitely return a cured person if you go to Poona and get yourself treated by Dr. Mehta.

It is all right if Shankerlal does not come. He should improve his health there.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : S. N. 32774

100. LETTER TO PYARELAL

NANDI DURG,
May 13, 1936

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have your letter. I do not like it. How can it be the final farewell? Are those not the words of an unbeliever? I did not like it either that you had the ticket bought, then returned it, and also took back the baggage. Since I had given up putting any pressure on you, I kept quiet. Otherwise I would not have allowed you to return the ticket.

But your saying that I heard you out the last time out of kindness is the limit of unbelief. Such lack of faith in the very person whom you revere! If I had not wanted to hear you out could I not have said so? I listened to your tale about your uncle with such interest that even today I can repeat it almost in your very words. I did not have the time, otherwise I would have gone on listening to you for even longer than an hour. I was absolutely certain that you would walk with me if only to finish your tale. What led you to believe that I was merely being tolerant and did not really wish to hear you out? Why did you not ask me the moment you had such a doubt? Why this lack of faith?

But it is no good crying over spilt milk. What has happened has happened. From this incident too learn if you can a lesson in faith. Even now you are free to come if you want. Only remember this much, that if you come now, come in good faith. What good will it do if you come with a doubtful mind?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

101. LETTER TO NEKI RAM SHARMA

NANDI DURG,
May 17, 1936

BHAI NEKI RAM SHARMA,

Please convey my blessings to Chi. Chandrakala and Chi. Omprakash. May their married life be happy and devoted to service.

Vandemataram from
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI NEKI RAM SHARMA
BHIWANI
(PUNJAB)

From the Hindi original: Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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102. LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

NANDI HILL,
May 18, 1936

DEAR DR. GOPICHAND,

The people in Maganwadi report that they have not yet got cow-milk ghee. They will be presently out of stock. Please see to the supply.

Yours,
BAPU

DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA
LAHORE, PUNJAB

From a copy: Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

103. LETTER TO PYARELAL

NANDI DURG,
May 18, 1936

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have read both your letters carefully. Why do you write in English? You ought to write either in Gujarati or Hindi. We must take a vow not to talk or write in English except when it is unavoidable. Is this habit of conversing and writing in English not a great drawback?

You must also cultivate writing a neat hand.

Your impression of Yashodhara is not wholly correct. I found Akshaychandra's behaviour faultless. Yashodhara will be seeing me. I had a long lucid letter from Akshaychandra. I know Yashodhara very well.

Hence your case must be examined independently. Haribhau's letters to me give an altogether different impression. I do not think Yoga has gone to the length you imagine. Yoga is not just repeating what she is tutored to speak. But your case is not related to your like or dislike of her. I find your case amazing. Your love did not need a response.

Your getting her or the desirability of your getting her was not, is not, and should not be a necessity in your life. That is one sign of pure love. Your love was extraordinary, yet it had certain ordinary features, such as the need for Haribhau's mediation. It would have been better without it. But what even if it was brought in ? The idea occurred to you too. Perhaps it was inevitable. You are not perfect, are you? You can say that perfect love was born in an imperfect man and that made love imperfect. I shall act on your suggestion if there is an occasion. But I know that you would not find anyone who would pass the test you have suggested.

I must stop here or I shall miss the post.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

104. LETTER TO PRABHUDAYAL VIDYARTHI

NANDI DURG,
May 18, 1936

CHI. PRABHUDAYAL,

If your nose bleeds, clean it with cold water every morning and also inhale water through the nose. Keep a wet cloth on your head throughout the day as I am doing. Otherwise, consult a doctor. There is no need to go to Sind. Tell Nanavatiji that I have given instructions about ghee.[1] Tell Bhanu Bapa that I have sent a letter to Nasik. Pursue your studies diligently.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI PRABHUDAYAL
MAGANWADI

From a photostat of the Hindi: G. N. 11670

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105. LETTER TO PYARELAL

NANDI DURG,
May 21, 1936

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have your letter of the 17th. It would be better to learn the facts from me instead of knowing my mind. Hence, only that step would be correct which does justice to both. I was really unhappy that you did not come. Otherwise, why should I have got the ticket?

I consider the service of the lepers, etc., the greatest thing only if you can stick to it. I did believe that Yoga would not have approved of your becoming a fakir. Those days are gone. Faith is the only thing left for the present age. For that, I would consider renunciation the best thing. There is hardly any scope for human endeavour. Occasions may occur when human endeavour is possible. Right now, there is a feeling of utter defeat. Hence there is nothing left except to depend on

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[1] *Vide* p. 60.

God's power. That is the reason why I did not show displeasure at your going to Calcutta or Orissa. I never considered it important. I had already suggested that it would be right for you only to stay with me. Even now, that is how I feel independently of anything. Hence I would appreciate it if you abandon what you are pursuing and came to me. But I would not like it if you ran away from Calcutta or Orissa after settling there.

As I see it you still do not have mental poise. You are not at peace. You have not found faith. It seems your mind is wavering between faith and human endeavour. If that is the case, I think your place is only with me.

I have no doubt at all about Yashodhara. Her love was merely attachment. It had not the backing of the spirit or strength of sacrifice. Had she been even a little firm, she would not have had any trouble. I shall know more when she sees me.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

106. LETTER TO C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR

NANDI HILL,
May 25, 1936

DEAR FRIEND,

It would have been delightful if you could have come to Bangalore where we shall be from 31st to 15th June probably. Do come even now, if health allows it.

As you know I have planned to settle down in Segaon, a village near Wardha. How far God will allow the plan to succeed He alone knows. But I may not disturb it voluntarily. Therefore I dare not attend the Exhibition, much as I would like to.

It is difficult to give a decisive opinion about the Lucknow Congress. There was nothing alarming about it. And I do entertain the hope that only good will come out of the confusion that seems to have been created in the minds of Congressmen. After all has that not been our history since 1920? It was inevitable when new ideas and new policies were being introduced. I have great faith in Jawaharlal's nobility, sobriety and loyalty to the Congress. He won't place it in jeopardy.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

[PS.]

I did not attend the session for the opening. The telegram . . .[1] were read after I had left . . .[2] was read.

From the original: C. Vijayaraghavachariar Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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107. TELEGRAM TO PYARELAL

NANDI,
May 29, 1936

PYARELAL
15 COLLEGE SQUARE
CALCUTTA

YOU HAVE WHOLLY MISUNDERSTOOD MY LETTER. ABANDONING REFERS PRESENT WORK.

BAPU

From a photostat: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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108. LETTER TO PYARELAL

[*May 30, 1936*][3]

CHI. PYARELAL,

You must have received the telegram I sent you yesterday. What should I write to you? Such utter lack of faith! Where there is faith, even a wrongly written word would be rightly interpreted. I did not write anything wrong. You must know that I do not revise my letters. I have many letters to write. Sentences are written as they come from the pen. They should be interpreted only in the context of the relevant facts. How can "abandon what you are pursuing and come to me" be interpreted the way you have done? "What you are pursuing" is a reference not to Yoga but to your work in Calcutta or Orissa. I wrote that way because I felt that although that work is worth doing, it may be better in your interest to stay with me. But what is the remedy when you see such a contrary meaning in it? In my view that indicates the height of suspicion and lack of faith! But it is like 'once bitten twice shy'. But in this case it is like being shy even though there is no bite at all.

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[1] & [2] The source is mutilated here.

[3] From the reference to the telegram; *vide* the preceding item.

It is possible that I may have the remedy even for such lack of faith.

Have you understood the meaning of what I have said? There is no scope for wrong interpretation at least in this.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

I shall be at Bangalore city after May 31.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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109. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

May 30, 1936

CHI. LILAVATI,

I have your letter. It is an excuse that hand-made paper is not available there. Do not people find similar pretexts for not wearing khadi? All these are signs of laziness and lack of earnestness.

I shall reach Wardha latest on the 17th or 18th. It is probable that I shall leave by the 14th or the 15th.

Prema's address is: Sasvad, near Poona.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

110. LETTER TO DILIP KUMAR ROY

WARDHA,
June 17, 1936

MY DEAR DILIP,

Mahadev Desai gave me your letter and the correspondence only yesterday. I glanced through the very interesting correspondence between you and Raihana[1]! I have perhaps a theory of my own about Krishna. I need not discuss it here as it is of no consequence. I hope with you that we shall meet some day. Then we can usefully discuss the Krishna legends and many other things of common interest. And of course I should listen once more to your music.

Love.

M. K. GANDHI

Golden Book of Dilip Kumar Roy, p. 121

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111. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

SEGAON,
June 17, 1936

CHI. MRIDU,

You have not acknowledged my long letter. I do expect a detailed letter from you.

I had sent a reply to your telegram. Now you may come over any time you feel like it. I have returned to Segaon. But that does not matter in the least.

The occasion for writing this is the enclosed letter. I am under the impression that you need good women workers. The writer of the enclosed letter belongs to a good family in Rajkot. She does not have much education, but she is efficient and experienced. She can be useful in taking care of the girls and so on. Think about the possible ways in which you can use her. She is needy. But that is of secondary importance. Think over it and write to me if she can be useful or not. Do not think that she has to be absorbed somewhere because I have recommended her. As I had to do something for this widow, I am asking you first because you had asked for women workers.

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[1] Raihana Tyabji

You must be receiving happy news from Vienna and Oxford.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Write only to the Wardha address.

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11198. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

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112. TELEGRAM TO PADMAJA NAIDU

WARDHA,
June 19, 1936

PADMAJA NAIDU
C/o PALACE, BOMBAY

PRAYING SUCCESSFUL OPERATION. LOVE.

BAPU

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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113. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
June 23, 1936

CHI. MRIDU,

Our letters crossed. You must have received my letter. I have destroyed yours. I have read the statement. I do not approve of it. The language does not describe the actual state of affairs. I do not wish to make such a remark intentionally. There is no time to analyse it. Some time, when both of us are free and you are eager, I shall explain. But it is not as if by issuing this statement you have disobeyed my order. You were perfectly entitled to issue the statement. Nor do I think you have intentionally committed any mistake in doing so. It does not also diminish my love in any way. You have all the right to seek my advice.

It appears to me from your letter and also from Jawaharlal's public statement that there is a difference between what I had told you and what you have said. If that is so, then let me know so that if there is any lapse of memory on my part, I would make amends or reaffirm what I have said.

Blessings to brothers.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: C.W. 11199. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

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114. LETTER TO PYARELAL

WARDHA,
June 29, 1936

CHI. PYARELAL,

Today is a silence-day. And then there is your letter. I have not been able to see all the letters. I have glanced through your original letter. I had been waiting for your letter every day. I had intended to write you a letter of reprimand. But I could not find the time. Then your letter came and I was relieved of the anxiety.

Is it clear to you that my letter did not mean what you had understood it to mean? I shall know this when I read your letter in full. I shall read the papers enclosed with it and shall write you another letter if necessary. I must have your letters regularly.

I have understood about Sushila. Only God knows to what extent I can win her heart. I will certainly try. I have always tried to draw her to me. As in the case of others, in Sushila's case also my attempt has been to be a mother and a father. But I was not aware that she had greater need of a father. In my future efforts I shall remember this. I shall be willing to keep her at Segaon if she can carry on there, and I shall take work from her to my heart's content. This is of course my aspiration and yours. But there is no question of my imposing my aspiration and yours on her. Let her do only as much as she wishes. I shall be ready from my side.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

I shall definitely go to Segaon on the 6th if not on the 5th.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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115. LETTER TO MUNNALAL SHAH

[Before *July 3, 1936*][1]

CHI. MUNNALAL,

This man will bring sulphur if available. Smoke away the sulphur for about an hour. I am sending a spray-pump and also some liquid Flit if available. You may be knowing how to use Flit. If not, we will use it when I come there. And then, what right have I to advise you when you are prepared to put up with the pest. But I will certainly go there and find some remedy for the irritation. It should be easy for you to discover a remedy. Have you not studied chemistry?

Why have you stopped taking milk? At present both of you should take it. Reduce the quantity of cereals.

There is nothing about the Mahar affair in today's letter.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati: G. N. 8601

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116. LETTER TO PYARELAL

WARDHA,
July 3, 1936

CHI. PYARELAL,

I am sending you this brief note in order not to keep you without a letter. I have received your letter only today. But I am so deep in work that I have not yet found the time to read your letter. Perhaps I shall be able to read it only when I go to Segaon. A lot of people are coming and going. Do I not know your feelings? Do not think that your dreams will never become a reality. You must proceed on the assumption that they will come true.

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[1] From the contents; *vide* Vol. LXIII, p. 114.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

117. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEGAON, WARDHA,
[July][1] *12, 1936*

CHI. PYARELAL,

Now that I have given the first priority to your letter, I cannot give it up. Hence I am sending this letter at my earliest. But Sushila's letter is still lying unanswered because I am still waiting for a free moment. I want to make it a beautiful letter. Where should I send it?

You may go wherever you please, but please understand that you will be most welcome whenever you come here. I am in a hut here. There is shortage of space. But surely you are not bothered by that? You have seen the *dharmashala* at Maganwadi, have you not? This little place is becoming just like that. I like it. There is peace. Right now Tukde Maharaj is keeping me company. He will be staying for a month. He has an endless treasure of *bhajans*. All of them sound beautiful. Come if you feel you want to listen to them. For the rest I am just getting acquainted with him. I see that much service can be had from him. People have great faith in him.

Others living with me at present are Munnalal, Balwantsinha and Lilavati. Ba is planning to come. Now that Devdas has gone to Delhi, she may come.

What is your diet?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The source bears the date "12-6-1936", evidently a slip, for Gandhiji was in Bangalore on this date. Further, from the contents of the letter it is clear that it was written on July 12; *vide* also Vol. LXIII, pp. 140-41.

118. TELEGRAM TO PYARELAL

WARDHAGANJ,
July 17, 1936

PYARELALJI
KHADIPRATISHTHAN
15 COLLEGE SQUARE
CALCUTTA

WIRE HEALTH. WRITING FULLY TODAY.

BAPU

From a photostat : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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119. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEGAON, WARDHA,
July 17, 1936

CHI. PYARELAL,

I received your letter only last night. It is painful that your health should be spoilt. You must have received the telegram I sent you today. If you have not committed yourself to go to Utkal, come to Segaon. There is plenty of work waiting here. Only in this jungle can we have a couple of hours to ourselves. Therefore my wish is that you should now settle down only with me. Who knows about October? We shall see when that time comes. "Enjoy the present moment, who has seen the morrow?"

I had then and there read the note you had sent in a small cover. I have not been able to read your article. I have kept it safe. I shall read it when I find some time.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

120. *LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI*

SEGAON, WARDHA,
July 18, 1936

CHI. MRIDU,

The bulletins arrived two days after your letter. You have strong shoulders and they will bear the burden of this work. But if you pass some of that burden on to my shoulders, I am afraid they will be crushed. What more can I say or do beyond giving you the empty blessings that God may grant you glory in the gigantic task you have undertaken. My strength is limited and every single movement of mine is taken up by my rural but nevertheless new work. Even so I have spared the time required to read your bulletins. I have made the necessary comments which you will receive along with this letter.

I had a long letter from Jawaharlal in which he writes that you have become a matter of controversy between him and me. When will you write to me about this? I am awaiting the letter. I am trying to get to the root of this problem.

Give the enclosed letter to Mummy.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11200. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

121. *LETTER TO PANNALAL JHAVERI*

SEGAON, WARDHA,
July 20, 1936

CHI. PANNALAL,

I have your letter. You have given a good account of your activities. May they bring you credit. I have neither the desire nor the strength to write anything beyond what I write for the *Harijan*. I would certainly reply to the questions that someone like you may ask.

I was indeed surprised when I saw your name on the Reception Committee and Sardar showed me the speech of the Chairman of the Committee. I thought the Chairman's speech was impudent and devoid of truth. I did wonder how you could lend support to such a speech. But what can I say to anyone today? Is Dinkar any different? He has given up all sense of decency. There are other similar examples also. As far as you are concerned, I know that you would do only what you thought was proper. No one has a right to expect more than this from anyone. If someone expected more even from me, I would feel he was being unfair to me.

All of you who act in adherence to truth are bound to prosper.

But I am forgetting the main thing. I will certainly send Walunjkar. He will be getting his railway fare from there, won't he?

Blessings from
BAPU

[From Gujarati]

Manavtana Prahari—Pannalal Jhaveri, p. 32

122. LETTER TO NANIBEHN JHAVERI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
July 20, 1936

CHI. NANIBEHN,

Your letter came in all right. I would certainly like to settle down in Gujarat in the midst of all of you. But my *sadhana* has to be at Segaon for the present. My coming in October will be as good as not coming. We shall of course have the satisfaction of seeing each other.

I hope you and Gangabehn are keeping yourselves fit. I shall not ask about your minds.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Ba, Manu and Kanu, Prabhavati, Balvantsinha, are doing well.

[From Gujarati]

Manavtana Prahari—Pannalal Jhaveri, p. 28

123. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEGAON, WARDHA,
July 21, 1936

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have your telegram and letter. I had to wait for your reply to my last letter. But I am writing this because I have read your articles in the mean time. The articles are good. I shall publish them in the *Harijan* in four parts.[1] More could be written about the remedies. You can still do so if anything further occurs to you.

I hope your health is in perfect shape. If you decide not to come here, it must be after careful thought. You should not need any time to decide to come. If there is any doubt the benefit of it should be in favour of coming.

Let me know if you had any talk with Haribhau about which I should know.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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124. LETTER TO ELENI SAMIOS

SEGAON, WARDHA,
July 24, 1936

DEAR SISTER[2],

Your book had escaped me till Mirabehn showed a letter from Mons. Jean Herbert. I am sorry I was never able to have the whole book read to me. I hope that those for whom you took the trouble of writing the book will profit by it.

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[1] The articles appeared under the title "The water they drink", in six parts in the *Harijan* issues of the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th of August and the 5th and 12th of September 1936.

[2] Widow of the Greek author Nikos Kazantzakis. She had written a book entitled *The Holy Life of Mahatma Gandhi* and sent a copy to Gandhiji.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

From a photostat : C. W. 11075. Courtesy : Eleni Samios, Nicosia

125. LETTER TO RAJARAM R. BHOLE

SEGAON, WARDHA,
July 28, 1936

DEAR RAJARAM,

Pray don't expect me to answer all your letters. I have but limited time for such work now.

I still retain the opinion that the d. c. should retain independence of action. But the position changes, when some of them go to the Parliamentary Board and seek assistance and advice. The P. B. may not put them off. You see the distinction.

Yours,
BAPU

From the original: R. R. Bhole Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

126. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEGAON, WARDHA,
July 29/30, 1936

CHI. PYARELAL,

I am awaiting your letter. I have of course received the post-card. You will have fully recovered by now.

I understand about the articles. You must hurry about whatever further you want to write.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Your letter has just reached me. I shall write after reading it.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

127. LETTER TO PANNALAL JHAVERI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 5, 1936

CHI. PANNALAL,

Shri Walunjkar will be starting from here on the 19th and thus reaching there on the 21st morning. He will be put up at the Harijan Ashram, I suppose. He has to reach Wardha latest by the 26th. Send me a telegram if this date is not suitable.

Blessings from
BAPU

[From Gujarati]

Manavtana Prahari — Pannalal Jhaveri, pp. 32-3

128. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 7, 1936

CHI. MRIDU,

I am pleasantly surprised to see that you are able to find time to write such long letters. You are taking upon yourself so much work that even a person like me shudders. May God grant you the strength to attend to all your tasks.

I do not know what you would be able to do in the Women's Conference to be held at Ahmedabad.[1] I have no clear idea of that organization and what little I know is only through Rajkumari[2]. I have not formed the impression that it can do anything for village women. Rajkumari herself is very keen to serve in the villages. It remains to be seen how far she can carry her other friends with her.

You are greatly mistaken if you think that there are no Hindu-Muslim distinctions among women. There certainly are.

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[1] The All-India Women's Conference commenced on December 23 and was presided over by Margaret Cousins.

[2] Amrit Kaur, Secretary of the All-India Women's Conference

They have not found extreme expression because women do not come out in public very much. When they come out like men and they are awakened, they too will be found making these distinctions to a considerable extent. They will become conscious in a few years. But the possibility of Hindus and Muslims uniting in the mean time is remote. Nevertheless it is your duty as well as mine to carry on the work on the assumption that those distinctions do not exist among women. Among the avoidable things I have enumerated the measures you suggest are of course included. But at that place I had to stress one point only. Other things were irrelevant there.

Now about giving recognition to the Jyoti Sangh[1]. Your arguments are interesting. I would only say that for the moment you do everything you are doing, but give up any talk about recognition. Citing the instance of tailors, etc., is not proper because the Sangh does not recognize them. It provides them work. Till now they had even been given by the mills the work of dyeing and washing. I stopped it only recently. Your arguments befit those who are indifferent to khadi. But you are a khadi volunteer. You believe in the power of khadi. How can you bend in the face of difficulties? But you say that you are ready to come if it is necessary. If you are not convinced by all this from me, come over at your earliest. At least we can meet under that pretext.

I hope Mummy is well. The letter for Suhrid[2] is enclosed.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11201. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

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129. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 9, 1936

CHI. PYARELAL,

I see that our views are divergent. You still appear to have faith in outward effort. I have given up outward effort altogether. I depend only on the grace of God. The reason for my asking you to come is that it is here that your *sadhana* has to be, not in Bengal or Utkal. Your natural place is also here with me and perhaps it is here that you can be most useful. This therefore is my advice to you. If my writing strikes a chord in your heart, do come.

---

[1] An institution in Ahmedabad for socially oppressed women

[2] Addressee's brother

What you write about Khan Saheb is correct. He came yesterday to stay with me. He is occupying a corner of the room at the moment. I like this *dharmashala*. How wonderful it would be if you could also join! Still a small room has been built for Khan Saheb. You can also make use of it. He is not using it. Maybe he will not use it at all.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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130. LETTER TO PYARELAL

August 11, 1936

CHI. PYARELAL,

I started reading your letters in detail after writing to you. I see that you suffered from bleeding. That also is a sign that it would be unwise for you to go to Utkal and that you should come here. I have always been telling you that it is your duty to make your body healthy. I was pained to hear about the squalor in the College Square. Have you drawn Satis Babu's[1] attention to it? Do let me have news of your health if you are not coming immediately.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Satis Chandra Das Gupta

131. LETTER TO CHANDRAKANTA

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 13, 1936

CHI. KANTA,

I was glad to have your letter, though late. Doubtless you had to do what your father wanted. But surely he did not tell you to bedeck yourself in finery. He would never ask you to array yourself in ornaments. And even if he did, he must have left it to your wish. He got you married, but surely he would not run your household. But I do not wish to write a long letter. Be straightforward, simple and good. Be a good worker and serve. Fulfil at least some of the hopes you have aroused. Preserve your health—physical, mental and spiritual.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI CHANDRAKANTA
BHAKTI BHAVAN
SIGRA
BENARES CITY

From a photostat of the Gujarati: Chandrakanta Papers. Courtesy: Gandhi National Museum and Library

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132. LETTER TO F. MARY BARR

WARDHA,
August 14, 1936

MY DEAR SISTER,

This is to acknowledge your letter to Bapu of the 9th inst. I assume that you are still in Khedi though Dr. Baretto told me that he was expecting you on Tuesday last. Evidently his date did not suit you and you asked for another, otherwise you should have been here by now.

In your letter too, you do not say when exactly you are arriving here.

Bapu likes very much your idea of taking a brief holiday in England. We will discuss the details about your travel after you arrive. In the mean time he wants me to tell you that much as he likes the idea of your getting England to take a bigger share in helping India's poor, you must not think that you are not giving to India more than you are taking from her. You must dismiss the thought from your mind that you have ever been a burden or are ever likely to be one. Whilst you may ask for support from English friends, it will not be in order to find the wherewithal for your livelihood, but in order to help our work here. You are a member of the family and are entitled to wage as much as the rest of us.

More when we meet.

Yours sincerely,
MAHADEV

MISS MARY BARR
KHEDI SAOLIGARH
DISTT. BETUL, C. P.

From a photostat: G. N. 6066. Courtesy: F. Mary Barr

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133. LETTER TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 19, 1936

CHI. SUMANGAL,

I have your letter after a long time. I have been keeping myself informed about you. What can I write? I shall not give up hope of you. Some day your mind will become steady. Please note that should you wish to lead a married life there would be nothing wrong in it. No one can transgress the bounds of his nature.

Write whenever you feel inclined.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

134. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

WARDHA HOSPITAL,
September 10, 1936

CHI. LILAVATI,

I understand from Mahadev that you have developed a dislike for Segaon, and whenever you think of the place you become miserable. You have lost your peace of mind. Since you had taken a decision, you want to spend a year somehow with me. I had known this all along. Now it is all the more clear. I must consider now what my duty is. For me to seek forgiveness from children is nothing new. The most recent example is that of Kusum. If you do not know about it ask her. Perhaps even Mahadev can tell you. If I had reason to ask Kusum's forgiveness, I have still more reason to ask your forgiveness. I thought I was protecting you like a flower. Whether you were aware of it or not, despite all the harsh words I threw at you, I was protecting you against attacks from others. But I set no store by it. What has value is the impression made on you. Judging by that standard, I acknowledge my failure. Forgive me for the unhappiness I caused you. I shall not let such a situation be repeated. But now I have lost self-confidence. You do not have to ask your freedom from me. But you have to free yourself of me. Or, say, I have to give you your freedom. Only a few can learn from me by being physically near me. Countless persons have been able to do that while being away from me. You are one of them. If you wish to learn something from me while being away, I am willing to teach you regularly through letters. Your coming to Segaon is going to benefit neither you nor me. I shall have to be constantly on my guard if I take you with me. You would not like me to be in such a pitiable state. The situation in which parents have to guard themselves from children is always to be avoided. So you should give up your insistence on coming to Segaon. There is no reason to be unhappy about it. There is no reason for you to feel ashamed as you are not giving up Segaon. In despair I am making you give up Segaon. Repsect this wish of mine in good cheer. It is my duty and yours to avoid a situation in which you may break down at the end of a year and your heart may be filled with contempt for me. How can I explain this better? I particularly wish that you should go to Rajkot and help Narandas. You have hardly any place now at Maganwadi. The kitchen is being discontinued. What would you do in that event? There is no provision at all at Maganwadi to accommodate women. Of course, you may stay in the Mahila Ashram. But Mahadev will guide you in this regard. I urge you once again that you should forget the unhappiness you have suffered at Segaon.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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135. LETTER TO SYED MAHMUD

WARDHA,
September 13, 1936

MY DEAR DR. MAHMUD,

Bapu has your affectionate letter of the 9th inst. He is very happy to hear all that you say about wife and children and he is glad that you told her that unless she gave up *purdah* it was not possible for her to expect Bapu's welcome.

The fever has left Bapu very weak and he might take some time to recover all his lost strength. The doctor wanted him very much to stay in Wardha for some time, but his heart was in his village where alone he could get his peace.

It is quite like you to write in the way you have done about Harilal's so-called conversion. You are one of the very few Muslim friends who has written in this behalf with such warmth and sympathy and understanding. Misguided Muslims do not know how very much they are lowering the name of Islam by going on in the way they are doing. Of course Bapu saw the newspaper cutting that you have referred to, but to beat everything else, an Urdu newspaper in Lucknow has given the news to the world that Bapu has become a Muslim. It is based on an interview supposed to have taken place with Bapu in the course of which he eulogized Islam, denounced Hinduism and declared that he was repeating Kalma every day. No such interview ever took place. This precious piece of news has been copied by dozens of Urdu papers and has now been translated into Gujarati and Marathi by Muslim papers in Gujarat and Maharashtra. What do you say to all this? I do hope you are now completely restored. The three Bihari leaders, Rajendrababu, Brijkishorebabu and Jayaprakash Narayan have converted Jamnalalji's guest-house into a hospital. All the three took suddenly ill on arrival here. Luckily they are progressing now.

Yours sincerely,
MAHADEV

DR. SYED MAHMUD
CHAPRA
BIHAR

From a copy : Dr. Syed Mahmud Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; also G. N. 5088

136. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

September 16, 1936

CHI. LILAVATI,

I have your letter. If you have not understood even after so many letters from me, how am I going to make you understand now? Read all the letters again and act accordingly — joyfully. I do not know how much and what kind of persuasion you want from me.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]
I have written this in great haste.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

137. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

September 20, 1936

CHI. LILAVATI,

I have read your letter very carefully. If you could only have some idea of my anxiety about you, you would become straightened as a cane, curb the wild horse of your imagination and become absorbed in the work entrusted to you. I do not trust you and hence you cannot be at Maganwadi. I am anxious about you because I have expectations of you. I am thinking what my duty towards you is. If at Segaon you can mix as sugar does with milk, even if you wanted to I would not let you go. You must admit that you do not have that strength right now. But all will come right in time. Be patient. I have understood the purport of your letter. It contains a few misunderstandings. But I have no time to clear them. It is not even necessary. Do read *Prithvivallabh*[1] again. And let me know about the effect it has on you.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

138. LETTER TO PURUSHOTTAM K. JERAJANI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
September 29, 1936

BHAI KAKUBHAI,

You have given me good news. Samples of the exercise books are good. It will be all to the good if people do not forget khadi.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati: C. W. 10838. Courtesy: Purushottam K. Jerajani

139. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

October 3, 1936

CHI. LILA,

It seems you expect a letter from me every day since I have got you into the habit. I never said that I would write to you daily. It just happened that I did so because I wanted to comfort you. Do you still need that support?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] A novel in Gujarati by K. M. Munshi; *vide* also Vol. LXIII, pp. 324-5.

140. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

October 10, 1936

CHI. LILAVATI,

Your handwriting, instead of improving steadily, becomes worse. I asked Kanu[1] if you had been nursing Prabhudayal and he said that you had not gone anywhere near him. How is that? Can you find no time to serve a person when he falls ill there? You seem to be spending a lot of your time only in talking. I ask that you quietly apply yourself to the work entrusted to you. I am pained.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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141. LETTER TO PRABHUDAYAL VIDYARTHI

SEGAON,
October 10, 1936

CHI. PRABHUDAYAL,

I have your letter. I was all the time having news of you. Never eat peanuts. When one is weak it is usual to have dreams. You need not worry about it.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: G. N. 11703

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[1] Second son of Narandas Gandhi

142. LETTER TO PRABHUDAYAL VIDYARTHI

SEGAON,
October 17, 1936

CHI. PRABHUDAYAL,

You must not eat rice and *dal*. Take only milk and fruit. I am sending six *mosambis* from here. Eat them. Take milk. It is your duty to get well quickly. Do not take cereals.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: G. N. 11701

143. LETTER TO PRABHUDAYAL VIDYARTHI

October 19, 1936

CHI. PRABHUDAYAL,

It is good you wrote. I am enclosing a letter to Pandit Benarsidas. Send it to him.[1] Take milk and fruit as necessary. Do not work beyond your strength.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G. N. 11677

144. LETTER TO PURUSHOTTAM K. JERAJANI

ON WAY TO KASHI,
October 24, 1936

BHAI KAKUBHAI,

On the basis of your letter, I have written about silk and khadi for *Harijan*.[2] I can get no free moment at all while in Segaon. How could I, therefore, possibly write even a postcard to you? Your sales have been wonderful. Go on writing to me when you think it necessary.

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[1] *Vide* Vol. LXIII, p. 380.

[2] *Vide* Vol. LXIV, pp. 8-9.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati: G. W. 10839. Courtesy: Purushottam K. Jerajani

145. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

November 3, 1936

CHI. MRIDU,

I am returning the letter you had given me. Narmada[1] and Ramnarayan saw me. Both of them said they would come to me, would try to understand each other and perhaps follow my suggestion, that is to say, they would break the marriage bond. I have no doubt that this is an unholy marriage. Their account of it suggests only that. Now, if Narmada wishes to live with you according to her understanding with you, have it in writing and then keep her with you. Narmada need not come to me at all. Of course, she does not understand her own mind in the least.

You told me that you had written a letter to Rajkumari inviting her to stay with you. She has not received the letter. I have written to her that it is impossible that you would not even reply to her letter. I do not insist that you should invite her if you have not done so. But you should at least write to her.

Vidyabehn[2], Sharadabehn[3], Hansabehn[4], etc., had come to me. They tell me that you not only refuse to join them in their work but also carry on a campaign against them. I told them that I could understand your not joining them but that I was not aware of your carrying on any campaign against them. If you think it is proper, meet them in this connection or inform them about whatever you may be doing. Or you can write to me.

---

[1] Wife of Ramnarayan Pathak

[2] Vidyagauri Nilkanth

[3] Sharada Mehta

[4] Hansa Mehta

I have not been able to understand the meaning of the comment about Pramodabehn's temple. If you have understood it, write to me. I did want to talk with you, but it could not be done.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11202. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

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146. LETTER TO PRABHUDAYAL VIDYARTHI

SEGAON,
November 7, 1936

CHI. PRABHUDAYAL,

Buy a Yeravda chakra if you can get it cheap. Otherwise I have already one spinning-wheel ready for you. Cheap means for about a rupee and a half. Have you regained your strength?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: G. N. 11678

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147. LETTER TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH

SEGAON, WARDHA,
November 12, 1936

CHI. SUMANGAL,

I have your distressing letter. You may as well take it that the time when I could have people staying with me is past. Even Mahadev is not staying with me. It is impossible to have you staying at Segaon. What will you gain by staying at Maganwadi? In any case I am more and more drawn to crafts. It is my feeling that for getting rid of your illness you should give up writing as a literary activity. Wherever you may be, I would like to make a labourer of you. But you do not find this to your taste. It is also my feeling that you should get married and practise what self-control you can while leading a married life. Your nature being what it is I see no other course. You have been partial to me and you have felt drawn to me, but this is attachment. It seems to me that your ideal is somewhat different from mine. Therefore even if you come to Wardha you will again become restless. The best thing for you would be to forget me. If you cannot do so, keep yourself away and digest what you can. Even *loha bhasma* can be taken only in prescribed doses, which are different for different people. The same may be said of a teacher. All teaching cannot be assimilated by all in the same quantity. Very few people have gained anything by staying near me.

I know nothing about Dandekar. It will be no use speaking to Sethji now. But if you feel it is your duty to do anything in this regard you may write to him direct. I would not wish to make reference to your letter, nor would you.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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148. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI[1]

November 16, 1936

CHI. MATHURADAS,

No matter in what context, I like to have your letters. I really have no right to give my opinion. I do not come in contact with anyone. Even newspapers I read only casually. Nevertheless if I am asked, I say what I feel.

Here everyone believes that proposing Vallabhbhai's name will not be proper. There would be no difficulty at all if Rajaji were agreeable. There is already talk of having Rajendra Babu for a second term. I am not particular about anyone. When I suggested Jawaharlal's name, I had only the country's good in mind. Now let us see what happens. The children will be doing well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Parts of this letter have already been reproduced in Vol. LXIV, p. 50.

149. LETTER TO JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN

WARDHA,
November 16, 1936

CHI. JAYAPRAKASH,

I saw Prabha in Benares. It gave me much pain to see that she had become very weak. She appeared to be in a much worse condition than before. If it is possible, send her here for a few months.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Jayaprakash Narayan Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

150. LETTER TO PRABHUDAYAL VIDYARTHI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
November 23, 1936

CHI. PRABHUDAYAL,

Your letter is good. The Bhajan Mandali's object is the same as yours. But of course, you must arrange things as you want. Both ways are good.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: G. N. 11679

151. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
December 11, 1936

CHI. LILA,

You seem to have gone far. I have written a letter to Dwarkadas[1] which is enclosed. It is difficult to give any guidance from here. Dinshaw[1] visits Bombay from time to time. Bring him along. Find out about his date of coming from his man. His office is in Fort, Bombay. Maybe Ramdas knows about it. Ba's blessings to all of you.

---

[1] Addressee's brother

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Navin[2] has arrived today.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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152. *LETTER TO MIRZA ISMAIL*

SEGAON, WARDHA,
December 13, 1936

DEAR FRIEND[3],

The Ahmedabad labour dispute[4] has [been] absorbing me to the exclusion of most important correspondence.

I am pondering over your suggestion. I have no hesitation about seeking an interview. But I ask myself: What shall I talk? What will he talk? I shall write what I have decided.

Thank you very much for Navin Chandra. If he equips himself for service and earns his scholarship whilst there I shall be satisfied. Thank you also for giving the necessary instruction to Frydman[5].

My love to the whole family.

Yours,
M. K. GANDHI

From a photostat: G. N. 11516

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[1] Dr. Dinshaw K. Mehta

[2] Vrajlal Gandhi's son

[3] Sir Mirza Ismail, Dewan of Mysore

[4] Between the Ahmedabad Mill-owners' Association and the Labour Union on which Gandhiji gave his Award on December 26, 1936; *vide* Vol. LXIV, pp. 178-83.

[5] Maurice Frydman, a Polish Engineer who was interested in village reconstruction movement and whom Gandhiji used to address as "Bharatanand". In his earlier letter of November 27, 1936 Gandhiji had asked the addressee to instruct Frydman to render assistance to him or the Village Industries Association; *ibid.*, pp. 80-81 and 99.

153. LETTER TO KISHORELAL MASHRUWALA

WARDHA,
December 19, 1936

CHI. KISHORELAL,

As per the instructions I gave you yesterday:

(1) Send to Bhai Chhaganlal Joshi Rs. 1,000 received from Manilal Kothari for khadi work, to be used for the Harijan Sevak Sangh in Kathiawar.

(2) I have sanctioned a budget of nearly Rs. 19,000 for the Nalwadi tannery for the coming year. It is estimated that it will involve investment of nearly Rs. 9,000. Give that amount to Valunjkar as and when he needs it from the Gandhi account. From this amount, pay back Mahadev Desai Rs. 500 taken from him. Besides that, I have approved a 1,200-rupee plan for a building for a students' hostel. And then we shall also need a store-room, etc., to keep the stocks of goods. We will need to spend the necessary amounts for these constructions. Discuss with Ramanlalji and decide from what source the amounts should be drawn. But in the mean time spend the money from the Gandhi account.

(3) Credit Rs. 1,264-4-3 to the account of Satyagraha Ashram, Sabarmati, from the amount of the Goseva Sangh. And Bhai Narahari has suggested that Rs. 500 (five hundred) should be sent to him. Do accordingly.

(4) Sanction the budget for Kager from that fund to the extent it may seem necessary to you. In this connection, have the difference between the Kamrej and Mangarol talukas clarified.

(5) Sanction a grant of up to Rs. 10 per month to Jyotiramji, if he has a good record of work.

(6) As for continuing the grant to Elwin[1] (Gond Seva Mandal) you may do as Jamnalalji decides.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Gandhi Nidhi File (August 1976). Courtesy: Gandhi National Museum and Library

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[1] Verrier Elwin

154. LETTER TO RAJENDRA PRASAD

[*1936*][1]

BHAI RAJENDRA BABU,

I had a little discussion with Khan Saheb last night. The result is the enclosed resolution[2]. Read it. If you like it, tell Khan Saheb. I had told him that I would draft and send something. If any changes are thought necessary they should be made.

I have instructed Khan Saheb that he should not make public speeches. Please instruct Jawaharlal too accordingly.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Rajendra Prasad Papers. Courtesy: National Archives of India

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155. LETTER TO PRABHUDAYAL VIDYARTHI

SEGAON,
January 3, 1937

CHI. PRABHUDAYAL,

Mahadevbhai says you keep falling ill and have again fallen ill. Nobody met me at Faizpur. Your staying here is of no use. You must now go back to your village. You will be given your train fare. You can write to me from home. You must go today.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: G. N. 11680

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[1] As placed in the source

[2] Not available

156. LETTER TO PRABHUDAYAL VIDYARTHI

January 4, 1937

CHI. PRABHUDAYAL,

If your health does not permit you to go, you may do so when it improves.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G. N. 11689

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157. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

KANYAKUMARI,
January 15, 1937

CHI. LILA,

I have your letter. You can stay with Dwarkadas as long as you please. Your staying there does not mean that you should become lazy. Your spinning, reading, praying, etc., should regulary go on. It will not do to start on them afresh when you come to me. And it will not be right if you do not follow rules in eating and drinking.

I would rather that Dwarkadas was not taken to another hospital or another doctor. You are absolutely right in saying that all doctors belong to the same brotherhood. Hence, so long as a patient is willing to stick to the same doctor, it is not right to create doubts in his mind. Even the desire to go to a *vaidya* should be overcome. Nature cure is another matter. But in my view even for that the time has passed. So there is no need to insist on it. I am also a believer in fate. There is considerable truth in the saying "what fate has decreed cannot be otherwise". Only such a belief can give us strength for endurance. Human effort has its limitations.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

158. REMARKS IN VISITORS' BOOK

January 15, 1937

I am very happy to have visited this Library. It is my wish that this organization may endure.

M. K. GANDHI

From a photostat of the Hindi : C. W. 11013. Courtesy: Swami Vivekananda Library and Reading Room, Kanyakumari

159. MESSAGE TO BAHUJAN-VIHAR BUDDHA MANDIR, BOMBAY

[January 16, 1937][1]

I regard this opening[2] as a part of the Hindu revival movement that is going on in our midst. It is fortunate that so learned a scholar as Prof. Dharmanand Kosambi is to be the priest and teacher in charge.

The Bombay Chronicle, 27-1-1937

160. LETTER TO PYARELAL

Read this carefully.

SEGAON,
January 23, 1937

CHI. PYARELAL,

I passed quite a few days considering whether I should write to you or talk to you. I am merely putting on a brave front. My fear of you does not allow me to do anything. But lest I should repent later I am overcoming my fear of writing to you.

Why am I afraid? Is it because you have always been scared of me? But you had no reason to do so, while I have every reason to fear you. Must you still torment me? Have some pity on me.

---

[1] From the newspaper report, which says that this was written from Quillon. Gandhiji was in Quillon on this date.

[2] Of the Bahujan-Vihar Buddha Mandir at Poibavdi, Parel; *vide* also Vol. LXIII, p. 238.

Why do you not believe that even man's actions are prompted by the will of God? Who has been unfair to you, the world or God? Why should you fight against God? Suicide is an affront to God.

Dispel my fear if you can. Allow me to sit in peace and work. I would be satisfied even if you only made *rotis* for me. I would be content even if you just remained before my eyes. Why should you believe that only what you think is knowledge?

What should I write? I am always praying to God that He may grant you good sense and I may not lose you!

Blessings from
AN UNHAPPY FATHER

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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161. LETTER TO TARADEVI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
January 28, 1937

CHI. TARA,

You are a lazy girl and you advance the excuse that your aunt has forbidden you to write. Are you ashamed of asking forgiveness for not writing till today?

And when you do write you have nothing to say except that you are preparing for class X. Let us see what you are going to write in your next letter.

Blessings from
BAPU

SMT. TARABEHN
MAHILA VIDYALAYA
GANGA PRASAD ROAD
LUCKNOW

From the Hindi original: Rani Vidyavati Papers. Courtesy: Gandhi National Museum and Library

162. LETTER TO PANNALAL JHAVERI

SEVAGRAM,
[*Thursday*] *February 4, 1937*

CHI. PANNALAL,

I have your letter. I will certainly write. You will remember I had quoted the doctor's opinion about milk. But what can one do when someone has a strong preference for buffalo milk and ghee?

If ghee is in demand, you must separate milk first and sell the separated milk at a very low price. You must bring out pamphlets pointing out its qualities. That milk can be sold at a very low price among the working classes and the poor. It can also be turned into curds. Many delicacies can be prepared from it. Many things can be devised in times of difficulty. The primary thing is to persuade the people that it is their duty not to use buffalo milk and have only cow's milk. Once they are convinced, we shall have found a key to solve whatever difficulties may arise and however insurmountable they may seem.

I shall await your letter regarding the new charkha.

Blessings from
BAPU

[From Gujarati]
Manavtana Prahari — Pannalal Jhaveri, p. 33

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163. LETTER TO RANI VIDYAVATI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
February 12, 1937

CHI. VIDYA,

Your letter dated 16-1-37 reached my hands only three days ago. You are of course aware that I had been touring in Travancore.

What should I write now? I have already written to Dr. Roy. He will of course admit you. Why do you insist on a letter written in my own hand? These days my right hand needs rest. Writing with the left hand takes time.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Rani Vidyavati Papers. Courtesy : Gandhi National Museum and Library

164. LETTER TO PRABHUDAYAL VIDYARTHI

SEGAON,
February 16, 1937

CHI. PRABHUDAYAL,

What did you tell Balvantsinha? You did not even follow what I told you. When you advanced the excuse that you could not give full time to paper-making because you had to serve Balvantsinha, you made a grievous blunder. You only added fuel to the fire of his anger. Were you not told that even after giving six hours to your work you could do anything else you wanted to, even cook for Balvantsinha?

Now I am left with no alternative but to give you railway fare and tell you to go home. You are not fit to do honest labour. You cannot distinguish between truth and untruth. Do not harass me further by insisting on living in Wardha. Go away tomorrow if possible. I have explained everything to Kanu. He will pay you the money. There is no need to see me. You may write to me if you wish after going home. You will not be able to achieve anything till you start being earnest in doing physical labour, till you begin to learn to speak less, stop speaking and writing without cause and learn to tell the truth. Hence it will be very good if after going home you do these three things well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G. N. 11682

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165. LETTER TO PADMAJA NAIDU

WARDHA,
February 24, 1937

DEAR PLAYMATE,

When are you going to be fit for play? It is a shame for you to be bedridden so often. Not enough for me that you can laugh at your illness. Love.

BAPU

From the original : Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

166. LETTER TO RAJARAM R. BHOLE

SEGAON, WARDHA,
March 5, 1937

DEAR RAJARAM,

I was glad to have your letter and to notice that you stood the strain of the election campaign without any physical ill effect. I hope that you will make the wisest use of the position you have obtained.

Yours sincerely,
BAPU

SHRI RAJARAM BHOLE
MINERVA THEATRE
POONA

From the original : R. R. Bhole Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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167. LETTER TO RANI VIDYAVATI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
March 7, 1937

CHI. VIDYA,

I have your letter. Since Dr. Roy knows you now, why do you need a letter from me at all? Write to him introducing yourself and go when he is agreeable. Write to me if there is no reply from Dr. Roy. I am confident that he will answer your letter.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Rani Vidyavati Papers. Courtesy : Gandhi National Museum and Library

168. LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

DELHI,
March 17, 1937

DEAR DR. GOPICHAND,

You will come when you like and not mind waiting if I cannot have you in at once. I am a slave of circumstances controlled by the President.

Youas,
BAPU

DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA
LAJPATRAI BHAVAN
LAHORE, PUNJAB

From the original : Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

169. LETTER TO SARALADEVI SARABHAI

DELHI,
March 22, 1937

DEAR SISTER,

It seems you are having your share of sorrows. Mridula usually gives me the news, happy or sad, of the family. Whenever she meets me she generally informs me of things at that end. It is my hope that whatever happens, you will not lose your peace of mind and watch with patience whatever happens and do whatever you can with determination.

Blessings from
MOHANDAS

From the Gujarati original : C. W. 11146. Courtesy : Sarabhai Foundation

170. TELEGRAM TO RAJENDRA PRASAD

WARDHAGANJ,
March 25, 1937

BABU REJENDRA PRASAD
SADAQUAT ASHRAM
PATNA

NOTHING SHORT PRESCRIBED ASSURANCE CAN ANSWER.

BAPU

Dr. Rajendra Prasad : Correspondence and Select Documents, Vol. 1, p. 33

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171. SILENCE-DAY NOTE TO JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

[Before *April 5, 1937*][1]

I still maintain my objection to Kamaladevi. You can have Mridula instead if you want two women. There must be other women in the A.I.C.C. Maulana would remain if pressed. I would like Jamnalalji to be spared. But that is a matter between you, Rajen Babu and him. I do not mind too many from U.P. You can't help it. I take it you will discuss the list with those whom you want to retain. I can't think of anyone else or anything else.

I think I told you that I used to like her. Her ability is unquestioned. But I have known things which have worried me about her. I should unhesitatingly take Sarup[2]. But I can understand the delicacy. Satyavati deserves the place apart from her fanaticism which makes her sometimes a dangerous ally. You may show my objection to Kamaladevi if you know her sufficiently. For I do not say this behind her back. I believe she knows my opinion. It hurts me to hold that opinion, but how can I help myself?

---

[1] From the reference to Gandhiji's objection to Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya's inclusion, presumably in the Congress Working Committee formed by the addressee in 1937. This is corroborated by the contents of Gandhiji's letter of 5-4-1937 to the addressee wherein he mentions this note; *vide* Vol. LXV, pp. 55-6.

[2] Vijayalakshmi Pandit

Therefore let not my opinion weigh with you unduly. If those whom you want do not object, you should have her. Of course I am partial to Mridula. But Satyavati has a longer record of service and has from a public point of view a better right. Mridula is a brick so far as work and loyalty are concerned. She will be the youngest member, if the choice falls on her. If I had to make the selection of course the choice will be Satyavati almost for the reasons that make you exclude Sarup.

From the original: Gandhi-Nehru Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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172. TELEGRAM TO RAJENDRA PRASAD

WARDHAGANJ,
April 6, 1937

RAJENDRA PRASAD
SADAQUAT ASHRAM, PATNA

WIRED BARDOLOI AS FOLLOWS: ADVICE CONGRESSMEN ABSTAIN UNDER WRITTEN PROTEST BY LEADER AFTER CONSULTATION CONGRESS MEMBERS SINCE CONGRESS ENTERED ASSEMBLY EXPOSE FUTILITY CONSTITUTION AND SINCE PROVINCES WHERE CONGRESS HAD MAJORITY IT HAS BEEN FLOUTED. CONGRESS MEMBERS MUST DECLINE ATTEND FORMAL FUNCTIONS WHERE NO EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION COULD BE SHOWN WITHOUT UNBECOMING DEMONSTRATION.

BAPU

Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Correspondence and Select Documents, Vol. 1, p. 36

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173. LETTER TO TARADEVI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
April 12, 1937

CHI. TARA,

Let us see when you come with Mother. What is the result of your examination? In how many more examinations do you have to appear? I receive letters from Mother.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI TARA KUMARI
MAHILA VIDYALAYA
LUCKNOW, U. P.

From the Hindi original: Rani Vidyavati Papers. Courtesy: Gandhi National Museum and Library

174. LETTER TO PRABHUDAYAL VIDYARTHI

SEGAON,
April 24, 1937

CHI. PRABHUDAYAL,

Again there is a complaint that you do not do full work. What is this? Give me an account of your work.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G. N. 11685

---

175. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

BHUSAVAL,
May 10, 1937

CHI. LILA,

If you patiently follow my instructions, all your frailties will disappear. Give up your pride and talk gently to everyone. You do know the meaning of the the word *anna*, don't you? It means brother. As you know, Anna[1] is forty-five years old. Consider him your elder brother and take his help whenever necessary. I am writing this letter from Bhusaval where I have to wait for a train.

Manu[2] and Vijayalakshmi joined us at Akola. Manu has left behind her *sitar* there. Now, if anyone from Jamnalalji's house is going to Bombay, send the *sitar* with him or with Surendra[3]. Surendra is going to Bombay. He will leave Akola today. Be absolutely calm. I hope you are not too tired.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

---

[1] Harihar Sharma

[2] Wife of Surendra Mashruwala

[3] Surendra Mashruwala

176. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

TITHAL, BULSAR,
May 12, 1937

CHI. LILA,

I waited for your letter today but it did not come. You must be calm. If milk is in short supply its consumption should be regulated. Let children have as much of it as they want. You must also talk to Khandu and others. He should have no objection to milk coming in.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

I hope you are getting post and newspapers regularly there.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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177. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

TITHAL, BULSAR,
May 13, 1937

CHI. MRIDULA,

We arrived here yesterday afternoon. Now you come as soon as you can. Both of us are waiting for you.

Mummy I hope is well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : C. W. 11203. Courtesy : Sarabhai Foundation

178. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

TITHAL, BULSAR,
May 15, 1937

CHI. LILAVATI,

Did I not tell you that it was a good sign that there were no letters from Bhai? In today's post there is a letter to Manu from Vijaya[1] saying that you have fallen ill — that you have a stomach-ache. I have warned you that you must immediately stop eating wheat preparations and live entirely on milk, fruit and vegetables. You may well take less of milk. Maybe milk has caused the stomach-ache. Juicy fruits are the least harmful. It will be good if you apply mud-pack to the stomach at night. I wish you not to be lazy and do as I suggest.

Pyarelal makes perfect bread. It is baked hard but I have no difficulty in eating the top and the middle portions. It keeps fresh for four days. The loaves are of uniform quality.

I understand about Bhanu Bapa.

Anna had given faithful details about your situation. It does not matter that you had to pay the price for the work that you managed to do. Do not force yourself to attend the morning prayers.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Vijaya N. Patel

179. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

TITHAL,
May 16, 1937

CHI. MRIDULA,

I have your letter. Come as soon as you can. I cannot off-hand think of any woman's name. But can you not postpone the matter till you come here?

One name has occurred to me while writing this. But I shall not let you have it now. If you cannot hold on and if you cannot check your curiosity then write to me and I shall let you have it. Otherwise, I shall tell you when you come. You may guess if you can.

Blessings from
BAPU

MRIDULABEHN SARABHAI
SHAHI BAUG
AHMEDABAD (B. B. & C. I. RLY.)

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11204. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

180. LETTER TO PRABHUDAYAL VIDYARTHI

TITHAL, BULSAR,
May 17, 1937

CHI. PRABHUDAYAL,

Yes, if you cannot give full time to paper-making because of the heat, then give five hours. Your health should not suffer on any account.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: G. N. 11681

181. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

Unrevised

TITHAL,
May 19, 1937

CHI. LILAVATI,

I have only today learnt of your vow of silence. I can find no fault with it if the vow has been taken with understanding. But if it is done out of anger, give it up.

Munnalal[1] and Anna write that you have a mind to pay a visit to Nagpur, but that you are refraining from asking me because you think I would not approve. You do not have to ask me at all. I have already given you permission to go to Nagpur or Bombay, wherever you want. I would like you to live in a place where you can remain cheerful and where you can make all-round progress. If I say that I would not like your going to Nagpur or Bombay I only mean that if I were in your place I would not go there. But this view has no value if it does not go well with you. Hence, instead of your staying on in a suffocating place, I would really wish that you should go to either Nagpur or Bombay and come back refreshed. Come only after you are well. Ultimately, your good lies only in your hands, not mine. I am now counting the days of my coming there. It is not as if I had anything special to do here and Sardar had no purpose in keeping me here beyond making me enjoy the sea air. I did have some work at Bardoli. But then that some work does crop up wherever I may be is a different matter.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

---

[1] Munnalal G. Shah

182. LETTER TO ANAND T. HINGORANI

TITHAL, BULSAR,
May 21, 1937

CHI. ANAND,

At last I have a letter from you in Hindi. Your writing is good. It can be improved.

I feel sorry for Vidya. But we have to be patient in everything. I have sent you a telegram. Do take Vidya to a hill-station.

What is the matter with Jairamdas? Why does he not write?

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: C. W. 11066. Courtesy: Anand T. Hingorani

---

183. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

TITHAL,
May 25, 1937

CHI. LILAVATI,

I shall be coming there on the 12th instead of on the lst. It will of course be nice if you can maintain good health and remain cheerful there. But if you cannot do so, the correct thing would be to go to your brother in Bombay. Munnalal writes that you have lost weight. It is not good that the stomach-ache persists. You did well in going to Nagpur.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

184. TELEGRAM TO ANAND T. HINGORANI

BULSAR,
June 1, 1937

ANAND HINGORANI
SHIKAPURI COLONY
KARACHI

VIDYA SHOULD GO GET WELL.

BAPU

From a copy : G. W. 11068. Courtesy : Anand T. Hingorani

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185. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

TITHAL,
June 3, 1937

CHI. LILAVATI,

I have your letter. I have given you freedom to write anything you want. I would only appreciate frankness and then alone shall I be able to help you.

You rightly jest about Tithal. If I have to stay at Tithal for a longer period, do suggest Tithal instead of Bombay. When you suggested coming out of the scorching heat of Segaon, did you not mean that you would come only when the weather became cool? There was indeed another simpler reason for not giving preference to Tithal. But if you want to have any more argument on that point, do so on Friday.

It is good news that Nanavati has been gaining weight. I am not writing to him separately.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

186. LETTER TO GLADYS OWEN

SEGAON, WARDHA,
June 15, 1937

DEAR GLADYS[1],

Your letter is touching. I know that like the good people at Sat-Tal many are praying unknown to me.

I am glad Celia also is having a little bit of cool air with you. My love to both of you and regards to all at the Ashram.

Yours sincerely,
BAPU

MISS GLADYS OWEN
THE ASHRAM
SAT-TAL
Via BHIM TAL

From a photostat : C. W. 11280: Courtesy : Dr. Priyamvada Mathur

---

187. LETTER TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH

SEGAON, WARDHA,
June 25, 1937

CHI. SUMANGAL,

Your condition is pathetic. I have no grouse against your literary pursuits but they should be secondary to physical labour. Tolstoy says that his mind became pure only after he started doing eight hours of physical work every day and only then did his writing become pure. Your case is the reverse of this. You appear to have no interest at all in doing physical labour. That is why I have been dissuading you from joining me. You do not need to fast. You must be at a place where there is some activity or other going on. Only when you have worked hard and have tired yourself out physically should you pursue literary activity if at all.

---

[1] The addressee was a teacher in the Theosophical Society School in Banaras.

Please consider this and write to me. If in the end we decide to have you here, the work here will be regarding the charkha. No salary.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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188. LETTER TO ANAND T. HINGORANI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
June 27, 1937

CHI. ANAND, VIDYA,

I have your letter.

Vidya must quietly stay there, whether she gets well or not. You cannot find a better place than Bhowali. It is good for the child also. Both of you should study the *Ramayana* and understand it properly.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : C. W. 11067. Courtesy : Anand T. Hingorani

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189. TELEGRAM TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

WARDHA,
July 2, 1937

MATHURADAS
CARE STOCKS
BOMBAY

RAMDAS DECIDES GO SOUTH AFRICA[1]. TAKE TWO SECOND-CLASS BERTHS. IF POSSIBLE SECURE JOINT CABIN.

BAPU

From the original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] With Herman Kallenbach, a friend from Gandhiji's South African days, who was on a visit to Inda at this time to see Gandhiji; *vide* also Vol. LXV, pp. 368 to 370.

190. TELEGRAM TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

WARDHAGANJ,
July 3, 1937

MATHURADAS
CARE STOCKS
BOMBAY

KALLENBACH CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION VACCINATION. HAS NEVER BEEN VACCINATED EXCEPT DURING SCHOOL DAYS. INQUIRE WHETHER DEPOSITED RETURN PASSAGE OR SOME OTHER CONDITION WILL FREE HIM FROM COMPULSORY VACCINATION.

BAPU

From the original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

---

191. LETTER TO BUDDHA GAYA DEFENCE LEAGUE

SEGAON, WARDHA,
July 11, 1937

DEAR FRIEND,

I have your long letter. I have read it most carefully. I can conceive the possibility of one who is without malice, without anger, who has behind him a long record of service, whose every act is actuated by love, and who is saturated with the spirit of the Buddha sitting motionless near the entrance till the temple passes to those to whom it should rightly belong. But such is not your scheme. Nor have you such a person in view so far as I am aware. Nor have you done the spade work which alone can warrant the supreme step. Therefore, however much I may be in sympathy with you, I fear I cannot endorse the movement adumbrated by you in your letter.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

Dr. Rajendra Prasad : Correspondense and Select Documents, Vol. 1

192. LETTER TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH

SEGAON, WARDHA,
July 13, 1937

CHI. SUMANGAL,

I have both your letters. The question is not of your being paid a salary here. The food is indifferent. The accommodation is short. It rains a great deal. Milk can be had in plenty and it is pure. Getting fruit is uncertain. You should bring with you a *thali*, a *lota*, two bowls, a tumbler, a spoon, a knife, a mattress, a *durrie*, a pillow, a blanket, an umbrella and a lantern. You will certainly have an hour every day for pursuit of literature. If you feel like it you may go and visit your parents before coming here. The rains end in September, but there is no hitch from my side.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

---

193. LETTER TO ANASUYABEHN SARABHAI

July 23, 1937

CHI. ANASUYABEHN,

Come when you can. September is also a good time. I will tell Shankerlal about the shawl.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : S. N. 32814

194. *LETTER TO JAWAHARLAL NEHRU*

[On or after *July 24, 1937*][1]

MY DEAR JAWAHARLAL,

Your letter.

I liked your statement about salaries.

Apart from my convenience I do think that Wardha is the best and the quietest place for W[orking] C[ommittee] meetings.

I am in constant correspondence with Nariman[2]. His latest is a marvellous piece of impudence. You will see my two last letters to him. M. will send you copies.[3] If he does not accept my proposal, I shall issue my statement[4]. Therein I propose to tell him that you could have no objection to publishing the whole of the correspondence between the W. C. and him. You too will have to make a statement. Yours may follow mine if the latter becomes inevitable.

I am trying to find time for writing about Essay on Hindi.[5]

Love.

BAPU

From the original: Gandhi-Nehru Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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[1] From the reference to the addressee's "statement about salaries", presumably of public servants, which was issued on July 24, 1937; *vide Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru,* Vol. 8, pp. 284-6.

[2] K. F. Nariman, President, Bombay Provincial Congress Committee.

[3] *Vide* Vol. LXVI, p. 5.

[4] *Ibid.*, pp. 247-8.

[5] Jawaharlal Nehru wrote an essay entitled "The Question of Languages" for the Congress Political and Economic Studies Series. For extracts from it and Gandhiji's foreword dated August 3, 1937, *vide* Vol. LXVI.

195. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

SEGAON,
August 2, 1937

CHI. MATHURADAS,

Does haste ever pay? I am doing whatever is possible. Letters are being sent to Nariman. When the time comes, I will issue a statement if it is necessary.[1] I am also in correspondence with Jawaharlal.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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196. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

ON THE TRAIN,
August 3, 1937

CHI. MATHURADAS,

Give this to Andrews. You must have received my letter of yesterday.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

---

197. LETTER TO PRABHUDAYAL VIDYARTHI

SEVAGRAM,
August 9, 1937

CHI. PRABHUDAYAL,

I have your letter. Authoritative opinion of course can always be had from the Congress Office at Allahabad. My personal opinion is that Committees should not be formed till there is provision in the Constitution for use of khadi. But my personal opinion has no weight.

---

[1] For Gandhiji's statement to the Press, *vide* Vol. LXVI, p. 39.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: G. N. 11684

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198. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 16, 1937

CHI. MRIDULA,

Three of your letters are lying with me. Since you were not in any hurry I have taken my time answering them. I did right, didn't I?

You ask me to write to the Majoor Mahajan, but I do not see the need. You did well to write again.

You have not mentioned anything in your second letter about the legal proceedings against you. Who is Premlila Mehta? In my view such writings are calculated to rouse sexual passion. But how can they be stopped? Such is today's education. That is how lives are shaped. The Vikas Griha seems to be developing well.

Now your second letter. There must be laws about women. Do write to Bhulabhai[1]. It must also be investigated whether or not some laws can be made in the provinces. There is little hope that anyone in the Assembly would study the question. If a good lawyer having some free time studies this problem and frames the Bill, then an agitation can be started on that basis. We shall discuss this when you come here. How much can be written in a letter?

Prabha is plunged in a sea of sorrow. She lost her father-in-law and now she has gone to nurse her father. She has to act on other people's orders. Please write to Jayaprakash. I am afraid prabha will not be able to reach there in time. But whenever she comes, she can be of great use to you.

---

[1] Bhulabhai J. Desai

I hope Mummy is fully recovered. Love to you and brothers and sisters.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11205. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

199. LETTER TO SAMPURNANAND

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 17, 1937

DEAR SAMPURNANAND,

I had assumed that you were always in good health and physically robust. Narendra Dev is very ill, Jayaprakash is so-so and you are suffering from jaundice and palpitation.

In Gujarat, Dinkar is perpetually ill. Meherally[1] has of course always been weak. I do not know about Masani's[2] condition. I really feel that I should open a nature-cure clinic for persons like you, and give up all other work. You surely know that I am a nature-cure fiend. Hence you should get well if only to avoid provoking the madness in me.

Your letter throws ample light on my question.[3] Nothing further remains to be asked. But the letter raises many other questions, which we shall talk over when we meet. However, let me say one thing. It does not seem correct to say that we can never approach our objective by means of compromise. Of course, the reason for compromise should not be our weakness.

Do write the other book you have in mind. I for one like your style.[4]

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

From the Hindi original : Sampurnanand Papers. Courtesy : National Archives of India

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[1] Yusuf Meherally

[2] M. R. Masani

[3] *Vide* Vol. LXV, pp. 440-41.

[4] Gandhiji had just finished reading the addressee's book *Samajvad*.

200. *LETTER TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH*

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 20, 1937

CHI. SUMANGAL,

I see nothing wrong in the decision you have taken. May your efforts bear fruit. Keep me posted with news of your progress.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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201. *LETTER TO RANI VIDYAVATI*

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 20, 1937

CHI. VIDYA,

I am dictating replies to the letters lying before me. Among them I find your letter too. I am not quite sure if I have replied to this letter.

Tara is a cheat. She is also somewhat lazy. Once in a while she writes to me, even makes promises and subsequently forgets everything.

Congratulations on Virendra having started wearing khadi. If you live carefully and work within the limits of your capacity, your health will be all right.

It is of course good that Tara is studying again. There is no reason for being disheartened if one has failed. Students study to acquire knowledge, not for passing examinations. Examinations are a kind of measuring-rod. When students fail, they study more and increase their knowledge. This is not bad at all.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Rani Vidyavati Papers. Courtesy: Gandhi National Museum and Library

202. *LETTER TO PYARELAL*

September 4, 1937

CHI. PYARELAL,

You fasted yesterday and you are fasting today also. For what reason? Is it because of Yoga's engagement?[1] If that be so it is not right. I do not interfere because I think you do everything after proper consideration. I wanted to talk to you after I had the news about Yoga. But where was the time? My health too did not permit it. There is no strength at all to talk. I am dieting because of my illness.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

203. *LETTER TO PYARELAL*

September 7, 1937

CHI. PYARELAL,

What can I write to you? I dare not send for you. I am scared of you. Everyone is. Your mother is scared, your sister is scared, your brother is scared and even Mahadev is scared. Ba says she cannot bring herself to speak to you at all. The girls are also unhappy and keep enquiring. I might not have been scared but now I have no courage left. In the morning I could not bear your silence, your appearance and then your mutterings. Every fibre of my being became filled with tension.

I do not find enlightenment or peace in your letter. If it is not ill will or anger you have against Panditji[2], what is it? You are being grossly unfair to him. Everyone can see your weakness. Even for the sake of thinking calmly you need to eat. In the present condition, it is impossible to have any conversation with you. If you have even an ounce of pity and wisdom, have patience, eat and help me in my work. I have so many ideas, but so long as your fast continues I am helpless.

---

[1] Yoga was betrothed to Ramachandra J. Soman.

[2] Narayan Moreshwar Khare

Blessings from
Bapu

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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204. *LETTER TO RANI VIDYAVATI*

Segaon, Wardha,
September 9, 1937

CHI. VIDYA,

I have your letter. I have instructed the Charkha Sangh office to send the charkha, the spindle, etc., by railway freight. You will get the things in a few days.

I hope you are in good health.

Blessings from
Bapu

Rani Vidyavati
Barua Kothi
Sandila
District Hardoi (U. P.)

From the Hindi original: Rani Vidyavati Papers. Courtesy: Gandhi National Museum and Library

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205. *LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI*

Segaon, Wardha,
September 12, 1937

CHI. MATHURADAS,

I have your letter. The question is a little vexing. If no doctor can be found to work with you what can you do alone? I think in that case you should not persist. By all means do what you can without straining yourself. As for me I find such . . .[1] suggestion frightful.

Blessings from
Bapu

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] A word is illegible here.

206. *LETTER TO TARADEVI*

SEGAON, WARDHA,
September 18, 1937

CHI. TARA,

You can write a letter in a beautiful hand while lying in bed. Let us see how you are going to work after completing your studies.

Blessings from
BAPU

TARA KUMARI
MAHILA VIDYALAYA
LUCKNOW, U. P.

From the Hindi original: Rani Vidyavati Papers. Courtesy: Gandhi National Museum and Library

207. *LETTER TO PRABHUDAYAL VIDYARTHI*

SEVAGRAM,
September 21, 1937

CHI. PRABHUDAYAL,

Come whenever you like. Stay the whole day and learn to make *rotis*.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi : G. N. 11683

208. LETTER TO SARALADEVI SARABHAI

SAGAON, WARDHA,
September 22, 1937

DEAR SISTER,

Since I have the opportunity I am dictating these few lines. These days, it is not Mridu but Anasuyabehn who acts as my postman from Shahibag. Hence I am well posted with news of the family. I was distressed to hear about your illness. I wondered why God has not granted health to one whom He has granted all the comforts. Then I remembered this line from Narasinh : "Do not be affected by happiness or misery. They are ever with the body." I hope you are improving. You have done well to send away the children to study instead of detaining them. There is no need at all to answer this letter.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11147. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

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209. LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

SEGAON, WARDHA,
September 26, 1937

DEAR DOCTOR GOPICHAND,

I have your letter. I am sorry for the belated reply, but you know the cause. I do not at all know whether I shall be able to tour the Punjab on my way to the North West Frontier. I rather think not, for the forward journey should be uninterrupted; there may be some possibility on return.

So far as Jamnalalji is concerned, let his tour be treated on merits, invite him separately. He should be able to negotiate it after the AICC meeting.

As to the Parliamentary work, regard being had to the facts mentioned by you, my inclination is to advise you to withdraw altogether.[1] But whatever you do has to be done in a detatched manner. Therefore my advice is that you should put the whole case before Jawaharlal, and be solely guided by him. Offer unconditional resignation. If he does not approve of it, send him the statement you would like to make, and then do as he directs. That is the only straight and constitutional course, and no other. Do not hark back upon the past mistakes. You have sufficiently purged yourself by repentance. The next step has to be considered on its own merits.

Yours sincerely,
BAPU

From the original: Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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210. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

SEGAON,
September 28, 1937

CHI. MATHURADAS,

If we think of the Congress policy in regard to franchise, all men and women aged 21 or 18 years should have a right to vote. But I see no harm if for some reason we have to adopt a middle course. I do not see any particular justice or merit in granting voting right only to the literate persons. But as I pen this reply it occurs to me that I should discuss this issue in *Harijanbandhu*, so that you may have a detailed reply and I may not have to deal with the same thing twice.[2] I do feel strongly in matters like these. My views are based on experience. So it will be as well if, through you, I can let the public know. Hence only this much on the question.

You will have read in *H. B.* my reply to your letter about education.[3] Let me know if you have any comments.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The addressee had complained about the attitude of Dr. Satyapal and other Congress leaders towards him and asked Gandhiji whether he should withdraw from Congress activity and issue a statement explaining his stand in the face of criticism of him and his work in the Congress.

[2] For Gandhiji's article on the subject, *vide* Vol. LXVI, pp. 197-8.

[3] *Ibid.*, pp. 166-70.

211. *LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI*

SEGAON, WARDHA,
September 30, 1937

CHI. MATHURADAS,

I have already replied to your letter about the question of franchise. Remit Rs. 3,600 to the Gandhi Seva Sangh. Kishorelal[1] will then consider the matter in consultation with me.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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212. *LETTER TO PURUSHOTTAMDAS TANDON*

SEGAON,
October 8, 1937

DEAR TANDONJI,

I have gone through all your letters.

All I had heard was that you had taken a liberal decision with regard to language. I had read nothing at all. I had also seen the brief Press report of your statement at the time you took your seat as Speaker. These days I am able to give hardly five to seven minutes to the newspapers. At times I cannot manage even that much.

The burden of work has greatly increased since I placed before you my new ideas about education, and the need for rest is always there. None the less, when Kaka Saheb left with me the treasure sent by you, it became my duty to read it. I liked all of it immensely : your speech as the Speaker, your decision about language and your speech on that subject. Both struck me as being original. It is all to the good that you accepted the position of Speaker.

---

[1] Kishorelal Mashruwala

I also received the telegram concerning me. I had not seen anything else. It was good that you sent the report about it. I deliberately did not answer the telegram. This year there were so many telegrams from all parts of the world that I was astonished and I considered it grace of God. I sent a brief message of thanks through the Press.[1] I decided not to reply to anyone personally. And what reply could I have given in words? Such abundance of love can only be acknowledged through action. Let us see in what way God uses me as His instrument.[2]

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Purushottamdas Tandon Papers. Courtesy: National Archives of India

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213. LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

SEGAON, WARDHA,
October 12, 1937

DEAR DR. GOPICHAND,

I have your letter. I have not forgotten the Andaman Prisoners. Where are they being treated as 'C' class prisoners? So far as I know these class distinctions are gone. These friends should help the Congress Ministers for they have their difficulties. You may give them the assurance that I shall strain every nerve not merely to see that they are well treated but that they are discharged. But I must be able myself to give the assurance in every individual case. Their noble response to me has paved the way, but it ought not to be held as sufficient for full fruition of the common hope. The main reason for my going to Calcutta for the A. I. C. C. is to examine the whole position, and to see what I can do in the matter.[3]

Yours sincerely,
BAPU

From the original: Dr. Gopichand Bharagava Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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[1] *Vide* Vol. LXVI, p. 204.

[2] This paragraph has already appeared in Vol. LXVI, p. 275.

[3] For Gandhiji's "Statement to the Press" regarding the Andaman prisoners, *vide* Vol. LXVI, p. 252.

214. *LETTER TO AMRIT KAUR*

[After *October 13, 1937*][1]

MY DEAR REBEL,

You have asked my opinion about Govind Das after having done the mischief. I have bitter experiences about him. He is ambitious, vain, vulgar, crooked and unreliable. His ventures have resulted in losses. This is the opinion of those who have dealings with him. I know him well. He used to be like a son to me. I used to think well of him. But I soon discovered that he was a schemer. Now he rarely comes near me. I am sorry, but such is my experience. I hope you haven't dropped much.

Love.

TYRANT

Reminiscences of the Nehru Age, p. 31

215. *LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI*

SEGAON,
October 17, 1937

CHI. MATHURADAS,

I cannot swallow what you say in your letter. My conception of Swadeshi is not what you take it to be. I have no hand in bringing in Jairamdas. But I was not shocked at the mention of his name. They wanted someone from the Working Committee. And this is something for which it is good to have an outsider. The same thing had to be done at Kanpur. Our groups are not meant to suffocate us. They must be nurtured and in turn they must nurture others. What should Utkal, Assam or the Frontier Province do?

I should be held responsible for Brelvi. I had insisted on having him. I know his limitations. Who amongst us is without limitations? There should be definitely one Muslim member on such a Committee. And I could find none better than Brelvi.

About the exhibition, I shall reply in *Harijan*. That will make things easy for you. Besides, that problem has become rather complicated.

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[1] From the reference to Govind Das and impressions of him; *vide* Vol. LXVI, p. 229,

Do come on 22nd and 23rd if you can make it. I have asked them to send you an invitation. But you can consider this letter itself an invitation.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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216. NOTE TO PYARELAL

[After *October 24, 1937*][1]

I shall of course send your letter to Kishorelal. Just as he placed his views before you without fear, so must you before him. But you have not touched the main point of his letter at all. However, that does not matter. That you cannot express in Gujarati or Hindi what you can express in English is something to be thought over. It is not merely a question of language.

BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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217. LETTER TO PADMAJA NAIDU

CALCUTTA,
November 14, 1937

MY DEAR LOTUS-BORN,

I was not going to write to you just yet. I have been only dictating the most necessary correspondence. But the imperious singer won't rest till I promised to let you have a line. For I am told you are visibly growing in years and let us hope in wisdom too. Your birthday is nearing! May it find you full of health, fun and wisdom.

Love.

SLAVE-DRIVER

SHRI PADMAJA NAIDU
GOLDEN THRESHOLD
HYDERABAD, DECCAN

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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[1] This note has been written on the reverse side of a letter from the addressee dated October 24, 1937.

218. LETTER TO PYARELAL

November 22, 1937

CHI. PYARELAL,

What have you done? You went away leaving me sick and Sushila in tears! But no doubt I permitted you, didn't I? Of course, I have laid down a condition. We shall know by and by whether my making the permission conditional was correct or not. Right now, my anxiety is increased. And Sushila is absolutely shaken.

You silenced your mother and your brother. You silenced your sister. Yesterday you silenced Ba and, while leaving, you did not even spare me. Is this right?

Do you remember what you had said?—that, if I let you go, it was just possible that you would not be able to bear the separation, and would rush back and put your head in my lap. Has that moment arrived? Does not two days' separation seem like two years'? If it does, in answer come here or send a telegram. Then alone will Sushila be able to serve me and then alone shall I be able to take service from her.

You know that if I understand your point, I can agree with you even with regard to your terrible step. Will you not wait till I recover or die? If I survive this illness, I shall take the first opportunity to talk with you. If you say that now there is nothing more to explain, it will be adding insult to injury.

Your letter to Jairamdas following Chhotelal's passing away was not appropriate. It was unfair. You did not have the patience to read Kishorelal's letter. You have done gross injustice to him. Except for the introductory portion you forgot your duty to read the whole of it. Even if the whole world fails to recognize you and is unfair to you, your duty is to bear it. "My reputation is in your hand, O Lord, protect me." You will ruin my life by taking any step that should not be taken. Come soon. And if you do not come, send a telegram that will pacify me and Sushila. Also write a letter.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

219. TELEGRAM TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

WARDHAGANJ,
November 23, 1937

MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI
74 WALKESHWAR
B[OMBAY] H[IGH]

DISTINCTLY BETTER SINCE YOUR TELEGRAM PYARELAL'S ARRIVAL. PRESSURE TODAY 194/112. INFORM DOCTORS.

MAHADEV

From the original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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220. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

December 15, 1937

CHI. MRIDU,

I will not object if you can attract Vijaya and I will not interfere. Otherwise she gives good news about Mummy first at Calcutta and then on her way there.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11206. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

221. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

[1937][1]

CHI. MATHURADAS,

I sent Pyarelal because of my utmost trust in you and love for you. I cannot say if I have acted rightly. It has only added to my anxiety and disturbed Sushila. If you cannot fully trust him you may send him back. What a burden you have taken upon yourself! I had only mentioned it in jest but the reality of it strikes me hard. It is a tremendous task for you not to miss a single meeting. Treat it as your obligation. You may see my letter to Pyarelal if he shows it to you. Whatever be the case send me a wire. Please do not hesitate to send him back at once. Of course if you can trust him you may retain him.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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222. TELEGRAM TO RAJENDRA PRASAD

WARDHAGANJ,
January 20, 1938

BABU RAJENDRA PRASAD
ZERADEI [SIWAN]
Via CHAPRA

WHAT IS THIS BLOOD POISONING[2]. WIRE CONDITION.

BAPU

From the original : Dr. Rajendra Prasad Papers. Courtesy : National Archives of India

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[1] As placed in the source

[2] Dr. Rajendra Prasad was in fact suffering from severe food poisoning which he had contracted during his tour of Kanpur and Lucknow. Following this illness he was bed-ridden for almost two months.

223. *LETTER TO LORD LINLITHGOW*

SEGAON, WARDHA,
January 21, 1938

DEAR FRIEND,

Chander Singh Bhandari, an ex-Havildar Major of the Garhwal Regiment, is a prisoner in the Naini Central Prison, undergoing 14 years' imprisonment for disobedience of orders to fire at a crowd in Peshawar during the Civil Disobedience campaign of 1930. He has served more than half the sentence. He wrote recently a long letter in Hindi to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to be passed on to me urging me to try to secure his release which he expected together with the other prisoners discharged by the United Provinces Government.

Before troubling you I wanted some information about the prisoner. This appears in the letter and the enclosure received from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.[1] On receipt of this I wired for reasons for this prisoner not being discharged by the United Provinces Government. Enclosed is the wire received from the United Provinces Premier. I venture to ask you, if it is at all possible, to secure the discharge of this prisoner. His expectation seems to me to be justified. He can see no distinction between the other discharged United Provinces prisoners and himself. He was guilty of no violence. It is true that insubordination is held by the military to be a very grave offence. But I feel that there were extenuating circumstances in this case. And in any event if the United Provinces Government enjoy real autonomous powers, their wishes in respect of such cases should be respected.

I am,
Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

From a microfilm: Lord Linlithgow Papers. Courtesy: National Archives of India

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[1] Jawaharlal Nehru, in his letter to Gandhiji dated January 13, 1938, had recommended the case of Chander Singh, especially in view of the fact that, when in 1930 his companions of the Garhwal Regiment were

224. *TELEGRAM TO RAJENDRA PRASAD*

WARDHAGANJ,
January 22, 1938

BABU RAJENDRA PRASAD
ZERADEI
SIWAN

LISTEN DOCTORS. TAKE FULL REST WITHOUT WORRY.

BAPU

From the original : Dr. Rajendra Prasad Papers. Courtesy : National Archives of India

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225. *TELEGRAM TO DR. SARAN*

WARDHAGANJ,
January 22, 1938

DR. SARAN[1]
ZERADEI
SIWAN

THANKFUL YOUR WIRE. PLEASE SEND DAILY TELEGRAMS.

GANDHI

From the original : Dr. Rajendra Prasad Papers. Courtesy : National Archives of India

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contemplating not only refraining from shooting at their fellow-countrymen but also shooting at their British officers, Chander Singh had dissuaded them from this violent action, stressing the non-violent character of the civil disobedience movement.

[1] One of the two doctors from Patna who had rushed to Zeradei to see Dr. Rajendra Prasad

226. *LETTER TO RAJARAM R. BHOLE*

WARDHA,
February 4, 1938

MY DEAR BHOLE,

Bapu had your earlier letter and also the p. c. of the 2nd. He has read no books but he would ask you to get in touch with Shri Aryanayakam (Nawa Bharat Vidyalaya, Wardha) and Dr. Zakir Hussain, Jammia Millia Islamia, Karol Bagh, Delhi, who should be able to advise you competently. You may know that they are the President and Secretary of the Wardha Education Scheme Committee.

Yours sincerely,
MAHADEV DESAI

[PS.]

Bapu asked me to give you the message that he expects you to fulfil all the high expectations he has of you both in the Assembly and on the Committee.

From the original : R. R. Bhole Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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227. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

[After *April 7, 1938*][1]

CHI. SUSHILA,

What shall I write? You will have received my letter of yesterday. After I wrote it, I saw Pyarelal's letter. May God grant you courage and peace. If you cannot find peace there, you have always got my bosom such as it is.

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] This letter is written below a letter from Mirabehn to Gandhiji, dated April 7, 1938.

228. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

ON THE TRAIN,
April 16, 1938

CHI. SUSHILA,

Lately you have been figuring in my dreams. Shall I call it attachment or love? Be that as it may, you have become a big question-mark for me. "You have already taken one; you want to take the other one too?" These words of Mother still echo in my ears. Her concern was justified. My duty is clear. At least today your place is not with me. If Pyarelal finds his moorings, it will be well. But if that does not happen I shall consider myself worthless. And what can a girl like you do by living with a worthless person? There is no strong reason for you to leave your mother's lap. I failed in my duty when I let you ignore the letter from Delhi. You should have accepted one of the jobs offered. Even now if the posts have not been filled, you may still write, 'It so happens that I can now entertain one of the propositions, if the posts or any of them be still open.'[1] Your duty is to be near Mother and earn. And even while you earn, increase your knowledge as much as you wish. This is my considered view. Mahadev will say the same. I shall convey this to Pyarelal. If he has anything else to say, I shall write again.

Stop worrying about me. The night passed well. In the morning the blood-pressure was 164/102. Even otherwise I am feeling fine.

How can I forget the service I had from you? How can I reward it? How and why should a father reward a daughter? God will reward you. It will be reward enough if Pyarelal's mind becomes quiet. If that does not happen, what good will be a reward? You did your duty. Why should you be concerned with the fruits of it?

You must go on writing to me. God will show you the right path.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] In English in the source

229. LETTER TO PYARELAL

April 16, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

Now you may know the reason why I feel light at heart. If I want to act on your letter, who is there to stop me? But you should know my decision. Sushila's pure love has showed me the way. For your sake she is starving herself. I was overawed when I learnt about it. There is no pretence, no outward show. I was terribly perturbed. If Sushila has to starve herself as she is doing, is my love so only in name or does it serve any purpose? Mother's tears made me resolve that if Pyarelal's life could be put on the rails then I would be qualified to keep Sushila. If that does not happen, I would stand disqualified in my own eyes. If my non-violence is not capable of melting your heart, how would it help in winning swaraj? You have become part of me. If I cannot keep you, I am worthless. Mother's words were not the words of an ignorant woman. Her candid words emanated from her great anguish. They went direct to my heart, and she was fully entitled to tell me all she did. When others hear such words of truth, it will only benefit them. Hence, at that time I lightened my heart by taking the decision that if Pyarelal cannot convince me of the justice of the step he wishes to take, he should give up his fast, whether complete or partial. If in his innermost heart he cannot be persuaded, he can by all means abide by his decision and then I will eat when he eats and starve when he starves. When he fasts I will fast too. If he should leave, my fast will commence from that very moment. This thought occurred to me after I heard about Sushila. I made my resolve after seeing Mother's anguish. She will tell you everything on reaching home. God has willed otherwise. If you go from here, you will be breaking your vow. I cannot quietly sit at Segaon till the visit to the Frontier Province materializes. And (at Segaon), you should start nothing until I am settled there (Segaon).

But this is making a mountain out of a mole-hill. A new phase has begun for me. My love for you will be as much as for swaraj. If the spark that Sushila has kindled is enough, God will grant me the strength to quietly adhere to my resolve.

If you have become part of me, then your duty is clear. You must do as I say. By doing so, you will benefit yourself, me, Sushila and Mother, who is like a cow. Then all of us will strive together for swaraj. The happiness and peace of many others like Mahadev, for instance, depend on your peace of mind. If you can believe it, do this much in good faith. Nothing should be given up for fear that I may resort to fasting. Duty should never be forgotten. If you think that it is clearly your duty to go, who am I to stand in the way? If there is any room for the slightest doubt, give the benefit of it to me whom you have accepted as father.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

230. LETTER TO PYARELAL

Second letter [On or after *April 16, 1938*][1]

CHI. PYARELAL,

I had finished writing the enclosed[2] when Sushila gave me your letter. You did not quite understand. What I had decided is mentioned in the enclosed letter. Even if deep down Sushila has any misgivings as to what may be good for her, she must submit to Mother's love. But if she feels that it is to her good to be here she must remain firm and put up with Mother's lamentations. I wanted to take back the letter today. In my opinion, from all points of view, Sushila's good lies in being here. But even you may not agree on that point. I am not enamoured of medical degrees nor for that matter [education] in England. Those who learn do so after getting their degrees. But this is my position. I have written this to show how my views about someone's good can appear distorted and shortsighted. Hence if there is any need for thinking, it has to be done only by Sushila.

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[1] From the contents it would appear that this was written after the letter to the addressee dated April 16, 1938; *vide* the preceding item.

[2] Presumably the foregoing letter

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

It is true that Mahadev should have informed me. But now that is over. Here we have a situation where Ba worships Sushila. What does anything else matter?

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

231. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON,
Silence day, April 18, 1938

CHI. SUSHILA,

Pyarelal told me that you had cried and my heart wept. A wicked person sees everyone as wicked. Do I also belong to the same category? How very perverted I must be to imagine even for a moment perversity in a pure-hearted girl like you? Why should you serve me? Where do I have the right to take service from you? Your duty is clear. Stay with Mother and do whatever work of service you can from there. It is too true that I have ruined the life of a saintly man like Pyarelal. Is that not enough? Am I a godfather to you or the opposite of one?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

232. LETTER TO JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

[Before *April 28, 1938*][1]

MY DEAR JAWAHARLAL,

On receipt of your letter I sent you a wire advising postponement of publication.[2] See what Nawab M. I. Khan says. He feels hurt that you want publication. In the circumstances, it is best not to insist on publication till after my meeting with Jinnah. His reference to me also has the same meaning. It is no use publishing the correspondence if it increases bad blood. Don't you think it is wise to wait?

Love.

BAPU

From a copy : Gandhi-Nehru Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

233. LETTER TO JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

[Before *April 28, 1938*][3]

MY DEAR JAWAHARLAL,

I am getting restive about the talks with J. Are you hastening the matter? I am holding up some of my actions for that purpose.

I hope good news continue to come about Indu[4].

Love.

BAPU

From a copy : Gandhi-Nehru Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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[1] *Vide fn.* 3.

[2] Presumably of the correspondence between Jawaharal Nehru and Nawab Muhamed Ismail Khan from November 10, 1937 to February 5, 1938 and between Jawaharlal Nehru and Jinnah from January 18, 1937 to April 16, 1938; *vide Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru,* Vol. 8, p. 245.

[3] From the reference to talks with Jinnah, presumably on the Hindu-Muslim question, which took place in Bombay on April 28, 1938; *vide* Vol. LXVII, p. 50.

[4] Indira Gandhi

234. NOTE TO MAHADEV DESAI

[*April, 1938*][1]

I had a fairly long talk with Pyarelal last evening. He has agreed to shoulder the responsibility for dealing with all the letters that you may entrust to him. What I said was that Pyarelal and Kanu should open the letters, arrange them, pass on to you those that are for you alone to deal with and advise you as to the disposal of the rest. He should not take upon himself the responsibility of tearing up the letters; he should just write on them 'may be torn up', 'may be kept', etc. Only when something like this is done can your burden be made lighter, enabling you to work the way I want you to work. I do not know to what extent you have been able to assimilate the idea of non-violence. I am anxious to know this because it is necessary. That will be only when you have a variety of problems to tackle. More and more occasions present themselves each day. What can be done about the case of fanatical Muslims? How can we cope with it? I do not have a ready answer. But it is a thing to which you should give thought. In regard to N. W. F. P. your responsibility is of course great.

BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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235. TELEGRAM TO AMTUSSALAAM

PESHAWAR,
[*May 2, 1938*][2]

AMTUSSALAAM
CARE ABDUL WAHEED KHAN
MANSA

HEALTH GOOD. WEATHER PERFECT. LEAVING TENTH MORNING. LOVE.

From a photostat : G. N. 372

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[1] From the contents, it appears that the letter belongs to April, 1938, when Mahadev Desai visited the Frontier Province.

[2] A similar telegram was sent to Amrit Kaur on this date; *vide* Vol. LXVII, p. 57.

236. LETTER TO PYARELAL

May 10, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

Mahadev's letter seems to explain everything. Resolve things there properly and come early. I do not insist on your bringing Sushila. Do only what you think would be for her good and what she herself would like. Do not unnecessarily take a responsibility on yourself. Remember what I have said today, that is, what is at the root of all that is happening at present.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

237. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

BOMBAY,
May 10, 1938

CHI. SUSHILA,

I had been awaiting your letter. I had it yesterday. I found nothing in it that would do any harm if Mahadev read it. Mahadev read all the letters. What was there in it to add fuel to the fire?

Stupid girl! You are indeed stupid. For that reason I love you all the more. Your obstinacy does not hurt me. I will not let you remain stupid forever. You are not a goddess, nor is Mahadev a god. The future is bright if this illusion has been dispelled. I consider both of you simple-hearted. The only difference is that you have not experienced lust. Mahadev has done so in full measure. He is a married man after all. But the god of love is subtle. You were both unaware of his attack. You needlessly blame yourself. Desire had certainly taken possession of you. But you were not aware of it at all. For that matter even Mahadev was not aware of it. Mahadev was not careful. But he was not aware even of that.

Neither you nor Mahadev has given me any unhappiness. So long as your reason does not accept something, you must never accept it, however much it may hurt me or anybody else.

My advice is that you should now forget the past, and remaining cheerful by doing your present duty, free my mind from anxiety. Let me know your programme.

Dr. Gilder was here. The blood-pressure was 180/108. The climate is lovely. We expect to go to Wardha from here on the 17th.

I return your letter to Mahadev. I shall tear up the remaining letters. There is a churning going on in my heart. I am happy. God alone knows what the outcome will be. Massages, etc., have been stopped. I bathe alone.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Are you laughing? I have not revised this letter. I have torn up all the letters.

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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238. *LETTER TO PYARELAL*

May 11, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

Sushila is causing me considerable worry. I am afraid she may break down. It will be terrible if that happens. I would not in any way feel sorry if she were to find happiness by going away from me and this atmosphere. Then I would feel that I had no right to keep her. But, then, who am I? Do I know her? Or, if I know her, why am I not in a position to explain what I see? Your profound love can save her. Her bitter experiences here will be like medicine to her. Do not be hasty in anything. For the sake of Sushila, stay there as long as you must. It is possible that she has now understood a lot on her own and is calm and cheerful. In that case you can perhaps return early.

Mahadev has left a heap of letters with you. Deal with them there. Keep a list of the names of people to whom you write.

I am writing this letter on the train. Do write to me every day.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Pepers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

239. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

May 11, 1938

CHI. SUSHILA,

How are things with you? When will you calm down? The 9th of May was auspicious for us as the 14th [of April].[1] The 9th had a special tranquility. On the 14th I was very much upset. On the 9th I was miserable but calm. How nice it would be if you too could understand this in your heart.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] For allusions to the incident on this day; *vide* Vol. LXVII, pp. 58, 60-1, 80 and 166.

240. LETTER TO PYARELAL

JUHU,
May 14, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have received your letters. I have had Mahadev read them all. You will learn more from Sushila's letter. It is a good thing for me that Sushila seems to be coming out of her stupor. A great burden will be off my mind if she returns to her original self and devotes herself to whatever she considers her duty.

After I had written the above, I got another letter from you. I can bear this distance because you are with Sushila. I would not have been able to stand it had she been alone in Delhi. I have compared her to a tender plant and the comparison is very apt. It was not in the least difficult for me to understand the purpose of Sushila's letter. I have never believed that she would deliberately resort to a lie in speech or action. Sushila acted as if in a stupor. With the exception of going to the toilet, every action of hers was in my view a lie. Once we accept the state of stupor, it is unnecessary to impute to her any other fault. The incident of that night only supports this contention. It has no other relevance.

Sushila is unnecessarily being angry with herself. There will be no time to write separately to her about it. Plead with her on my behalf and console her. Is she cheerful? Does she laugh? If she does not laugh, how can she be stupid? If she accepts the adjective I have used for her, she must forget her unhappiness and prove her stupidity. Do not the foolish and the wise have some common characteristics?

If your understanding of [the incidents of] the 14th in daytime and of the 9th night is different, what is there in it to make you shudder or render you unhappy? Am I omniscient? My understanding has not always been correct. And on this occasion, I see myself distressed and senile; so what wonder if I act like a jaundiced man who sees everything yellow? Hence, have no fear about my being firm. Right now, I am beginning to give more importance to the view of the other party rather than to my own. Please therefore let me know your interpretation in clear terms and without any fear. If I find it accerptable, it will not take me long to change my view.

When would you prepare *rotis* for me? Sushila is confused. Only you can show her the straight path. Take whatever time is necessary to do that.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

I hope to leave here for Wardha on the 17th.

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

241. LETTER TO PYARELAL

VISHRAM VATIKA,
JUHU,
May 15, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

You will have received my letter of yesterday. Mahadev has been terribly hurt by your letter. He has been crying. He had already been anguished and given to crying. Your letter has added to his agony. However, it is just as well that you have expressed through this letter whatever was weighing on your mind. That is the only way to regain mental composure and to be cleansed of the kind of suspicions and prejudices lurking there. Mahadev has not written the letter "under pressure from me" as a last resort. Yes, the letter was the result of his discussion with me. But it was not written under pressure. His pen moved because he felt that his writing the letter would be justified. All arguments were his own.

Mahadev wrote to you on his own and the letter was full of anguish. That is why I did not allow it to go. It would have only intensified the misery and there would have been more misunderstanding. Now he has decided to stop writing to both of you for the time being. I have approved of this decision. You and Sushila may write if you feel like doing so. You can even write if the absence of Mahadev's letters irks you. Mahadev had told Sushila that he would write [to her] about my health.

But for the time being even that has been stopped. In any case, I would be writing almost every day. Hence, you would continue to get the news. This should not lead to the conclusion that I have suggested to Mahadev not to write to you, since the idea was Mahadev's. I have given it my approval for the time being. The past, except when it is essential for the present, needs to be forgotten. I wish to discuss the past only to be certain that I have not done any injustice either to Mahadev or to Sushila. No one has deliberately committed mistakes. That is sufficient consolation for me. It should be so for Mahadev and Sushila as well. Where there was no wrong at all, I saw wrong and insisted that all of you should also see it. I wish I had not committed such a grave sin. You can be of great help in my quest to find out. Do not conceal the truth from me by showing me undeserved pity. Of course I know that you will not stay on there a moment longer than necessary and I am not therefore impatient. My blood-pressure is not checked every day. What daily news then can I give about my health? My own diagnosis says that my health is fine. I sleep well. I take my walks regularly. I eat well. Perhaps mangoes are a little difficult to digest. I do a fairly good amount of work. It does not show any adverse effect. I lie down in the bath-tub. I get sleep. My legs are massaged. My head and feet are massaged with ghee. A[mtus] S[alaam] gives me nourishment. She prepares *rotis* with her own hands. She is quite successful.

Kanti and Saraswati are here. Manilal and Sushila have arrived today.

There is a letter from Nazimuddin. I cannot say it is wholly satisfactory. I shall see what I have to do.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

242. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

VISHRAM VATIKA,
JUHU,
May 15, 1938

STUPID GIRL,

Should I dispense with the quotation marks? I shall do that if you can send me a telegram saying that you have calmed down and are abiding by your promise. Can you understand that there can be stupidity tempered with knowledge? May you always have that type of stupidity. Do suggest whatever you want with regard to my health. I shall need to have letters from you. Write to Rajkumari, Prabha, Mira, Kanu, A. S., etc. Now you must quickly make your life normal. More in the letter to Pyarelal. How is Mother? Is she in good cheer?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

243. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

VISHRAM VATIKA,
JUHU,
May 16, 1938

STUPID DAUGHTER SUSHILA,

Forget your own unhappiness now and understand and share mine. In truth you have no reason at all to feel unhappy. I am sending Mirabehn's three letters by this same post.[1] Ignore the exaggerations, etc., in the letters and see the love, the truth they contain. Go through the letters patiently. Tell me what it is proper for me to do. Write to Mirabehn if you want. I need women's help in this matter. You can show the letter to anyone you wish.

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[1] *Vide* Vol. LXVII, p. 84.

I am quite well of course. There is nothing new to write. We shall go to Wardha in a couple of days.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

244. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

May 16, 1938

STUPID DAUGHTER SUSHILA,

I received Pyarelal's letter after I had already written to you. He writes that [you think] you have lost for ever the place you had in my heart and that consequently you have lost your lustre. This has disturbed me. Your place with me remains as it was. I cannot understand why you should think otherwise. You should cast the doubt out of your mind. The truth is that perhaps I am not the same to you now as I was. But I have no fear. If I am true, your doubt will be dispelled. I do have a fear that I may have unwittingly been unfair to you. But I am not writing this to tell you of my woes. You should at least believe this much, that you have not lost your place with me. I should have your reply by wire.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

245. *LETTER TO PYARELAL*

VISHRAM VATIKA,
JUHU,
May 16, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

There was no letter from you yesterday. It would be good if you did not keep me without letters these days. I am now putting out of my mind the distress of Mahadev and Sushila. It should now be considered entirely a matter of the past. I am sending today by book-post three letters from Mirabehn. Both you brother and sister may peruse the letters and let me know your reaction. Is not Mirabehn's description similar to that of Ravana's palace by Tulsidas? Ravana is lying unconscious and his numerous queens are reclining around him in various states of undress. I laughed and cried when I read it. How could I have been affected in that way? Disregarding Mirabehn's exaggeration, I was affected by what remained in the letter and I wrote that I would change my practice. What if the suffering witnessed on the 14th was the result of those physical contacts? So far I have not found any clear evidence to conclude that it could not have been so. Then have all these women become impure by my touch? If that is so, have I been like that from the beginning? In that case, is the peace that some women and young men are supposed to have found by being close to me a delusion? If that is the case, do I have a place in the world? Who am I to find fault with Mahadev and Sushila? Who can say that I may not be thrusting my own faults on them? What have you all gained from me? Is it only disappointment? Would it be proper for me to guide you? Such thoughts pass through my mind. I am maintaining my calm in the midst of this turmoil. My attention is centred on you. If you remain composed then I may regain my self-confidence. Your action will help me only if it is natural. Or, if I find that whatever steps you take express your sense of duty, then too I shall feel at ease. This means that I have found the guru that I have been looking for. I shall consider myself fortunate if that happens. It is my belief that such should be the result of my training. I shall attain glory only if those who are my heirs have reached higher than I. Right now I see you, Mahadev, Sushila, etc., as occupying a loftier place. This does not mean that now I cannot guide you in any matter at all. But it does mean that if the experience of the 14th is indicative of my generally diseased mind, the situation in which all of you sustained yourselves would have reduced me to bits!

I shall not elaborate further.

If possible, decide about the time of your coming. After you receive this letter, write to me at the Wardha address.

Today's post has not yet arrived. I expect to hear that Sushila has regained her calm.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

I am sending "Thought for the Day" copied from the *Times of India* of today. The person who copied it is also a Sushila[1]. She is the headmistress of a high school at Rajkot.

Post Mirabehn's letters to Rajkumari. I have received your letter. Is Sushila so mad ? It is unbearable that she should lose her place with me. I am awaiting your detailed letter.

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

246. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

[After *May 16, 1938*][2]

If you take it with a smile the pain will be lessened. Of course if you wish to make me cry you may wear the long face. I cannot put up with your looking sullen. Is not one Pyarelal enough?

If you have read Mahadev's letter to me you will know that I have told Leela nothing. I have told nothing to anyone. I told only Mirabehn that I had conveyed her complaint to both of you. What is your fault after all? I am at fault in having accused a young man like Mahadev and a pure girl like you. Is this not all that I can tell anyone? Why should you make me more unhappy by being unhappy about it? If you can bear with me, keep a cheerful face and absorb yourself in service. If there is even a little purity and love in me, Pyarelal will be saved and with him both of us will be saved too. Otherwise, both of us will be ruined.

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[1] Sushila Pai

[2] *Vide* the preceding three items.

Keep this letter with you. I am afraid of somebody reading it if it is left with me. Ultimately it has to be destroyed.

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

247. *LETTER TO PYARELAL*

May 17, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

How is it there is no letter from you today? Not a day should pass without a letter from you. At present, I am working sometimes for ten hours a day. Let us see what happens.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI PYARELAL NAYYAR
19 RAJA BAZAR SQUARE
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

248. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

May 17, 1938

CHI. SUSHILA,

After reading Mahadev's letter, you must neither get angry nor abandon me. I have spared nothing in making you unhappy. I do not regret it. Whatever I did was for your good. If you remain unhappy there, it will be breach of promise. If you are not tired of me, both of you should come back at once. Pyarelal's parting from me is like Shravana's being snatched from his parents. I do not have so much right over you. If I remain alive, you will be convinced one day. For the present I shall be awaiting your letters.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

249. *LETTER TO PYARELAL*

May 18, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

Your letter to Mahadev is shocking. It would seem of all the people you are the most distressed. If anyone has to be distressed, it should rightly be I. I shall put up with your absence so long as you remain cheerful there. Otherwise it would be unbearable.

I for one feel that it will be good for you to come away. My state of health is described in the letter to Sushila. Even from that point of view it may be necessary for you to come. Maybe it would be inadvisable for me to be unrestrained.

I must definitely have your reaction. How would that distress me? You may be sure I am calm.

Mahadev's greatest sorrow is that he has lost his place with you. Unwittingly, he has caused you untold misery. I am persuading him. Wipe his tears if you can.

Do not deprive me of your letter even for a day.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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250. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 18, 1938

STUPID DAUGHTER,

You have been proving your stupidity in every letter. Yes, I did say that if you were tired of Segaon then I had not been entitled to receive service from you. This could not in any way imply that you should not come to me. It did imply that you should hasten your return. If your mind cannot grasp such a simple thing, ask me again. In this context let me describe to you my condition. These two days have not passed well. Yesterday I worked for 12 hours. I was mentally exhausted. I had a terrible backache. I slept well. I was alert again. But the mental condition is not good. In such a situation I do feel your absence. But how can I send for you, how can I ask you to come so long as you do not feel drawn to this place? Would I have been able to work so much if you had been near me? Now do you understand what I want? But this certainly does not mean that you should come here at once under any circumstances.

Now your second question. I accept your version of what happened on the 9th night. There is no question of your account being incorrect. Those who see silver in a sea-shell are right at all times. But he who knows a sea-shell will see it only as a sea-shell, will he not? Oh, the things that sexual impulse makes us do! This does not even mean that I am in the right and what you thought was merely imagination. Believe me, I admit I may have been a prey to illusion; so you can stick to your own position. Indeed it is your duty to do so. Ponder that verse in the *Bhajanavali*. Only that is dharma which is followed by the learned and practised by the saintly and by people free from attachment and hatred, and which your heart accepts as dharma. What the learned, the saintly and people free from attachment, etc., believe can never be acceptable to us if our heart does not accept it. I am neither a learned man, nor a saint; nor am I free from attachment, etc. I have only appointed myself your godfather. The words of such a man must be rejected unless your heart and mind accept them. Whatever you do, your position with me will always remain the same. In no way have you fallen in my estimation.

Yes, a man's words should be taken at their face value. But even so, one must consider their context. That is to say, while it is necessary to exercise discretion, we must take it that if the reasons which dictate avoidance of physical contact are applicable to any other behaviour or gestures, such gestures too must be avoided. So much for the literal interpretation. But even this much is not sufficient. To know the meaning of words it is also necessary to know their deeper significance. When you recite the *Gita* every day, you know the literal meaning of the words. But so long as you do not understand their deeper significance, going by the literal meaning of the words would be futile and burdensome. Does this fully answer your letter?

We shall probably leave here on the 20th. I have torn up your letter. Mahadev does not read your letters these days. He sees what I write. He continues to be miserable. That is in his nature. Time will do its work. Is not *Kaala*[1] one of the names for God?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Time

251. TELEGRAM TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

WARDHA,
May 19, 1938

SUSHILA
21 RAJA BAZAR SQUARE
NEW DELHI

THOUGH STILL FEEL UNWORTHY YOU ARE TO COME. SOONER THE BETTER. PYARELAL AGREES BRING SHARDA. GOD BLESS YOU. SOUNDARAM HERE. HOWEVER YOU CAN WAIT IF YOU WOULD RATHER SEE SOUNDARAM THERE.

BAPU

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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252. LETTER TO PYARELAL

May 19, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

There are no letters from you today. Maybe they have gone to Wardha. I hope to get away from here tomorrow. Today the blood-pressure was 168/105. There is no time to write more.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI PYARELAL NAYYAR
19 RAJA BAZAR SQUARE
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

253. LETTER TO PYARELAL

May 21, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

Yesterday I did not dictate any letter. I am writing this on the train. My health can be said to be good. I am under mental tension. What does Prakash intend doing? What does Ba propose doing? Will Devdas be going to Rajaji or not? Tell Devdas that it was unnecessary to send the long telegram. How is Sushila?

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI PYARELAL NAYYAR
19 RAJA BAZAR SQUARE
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

254. LETTER TO PYARELAL

May 21, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have sent off a postcard today after paying late fee. I got your note after I reached here.

I am feeling quite well. I had my weight taken. It was 106 lbs. It is not bad.

It is quite hot here, though it is not unbearable. Do not be slack in writing letters.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

255. *LETTER TO PYARELAL*

May 22, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

Have you and Sushila decided not to write to me? I have written to you that your letters are a necessity for me. You must at least do this much.

I may say I am getting along well. Pass on the enclosed letters.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

256. *LETTER TO PYARELAL*

May 23, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have your letter. I do not find in it any contempt for me. What you have done is scientific analysis. I agree with many of the points. I shall enclose with this the article I had written. You can tear it up after having Devdas read it. Nothing has been published. If I write anything afresh, I shall circulate it among friends. I am still not convinced that there is anything wrong about discussing such matters. To my knowledge, such discussions have been beneficial so far. I am not aware of the harm done. There will be a great deal of dirty discussions. How can filth be removed unless it is brought out through discussions? All this is unnecessary today. I submitted to Mahadev, Raja, etc., because I am a little scared of them myself. We shall see about it when I have acquired confidence in myself.

Does it not follow from your letter that it is not right that I should forbid others from taking the liberties I permit myself? I am not perturbed. I have almost regained my original calm.

I am thinking impartially about everything, including the bitter experience of the 14th.

Can you indicate the date of your return?

Blessing from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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257. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON,
May 23, 1938

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have received two of your envelopes together. Mahadev appears calm. But if his calm is genuine, he will not be distressed by your letters. I send him all your letters.

You certainly are stupid, but certainly not unfortunate and undeserving. And why unfortunate? Have you lost my love? Have you lost Mahadev's love? Why undeserving? What have you done to make you undeserving? You certainly are stupid because you could not understand some simple things about the world. But it is I who make you stupid. What if I should be seeing my stupidity in you?

Now about the 9th night. Why are you suffering so much? Can it not be that my affliction is the result of my latent lust? Maybe it is not. Can it not be that it is the result of my delusions? I have not claimed divinity. If you can be in the wrong, why can I not be in the wrong too? Both are a matter of imagination, are they not? You have not experienced anything and I cannot know your heart. God alone is the ruler of the hearts of both of us. He alone knows our hearts. That is why as your godfather I command you to regard your conduct as having been absolutely innocent and to forget your anguish. My misconceptions are the cause of your anguish. Forget it; that you forgive me I can hardly ask.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

258. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEGAON, WARDHA,
May 24, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

I wrote to you at considerable length yesterday. You have asked in your letter to Kanu as to what is being decided about you. He will no doubt write. I can only say that all that we are thinking of is your return. When will you be coming?

And what is there to think about? You had said three weeks at least. I had thought it would be three weeks at the most. Deep within me I had felt that you yourself would not be able to stay away for three weeks. If you do not fix another date, I shall await your arrival on the 30th. Counting from the 9th, would not three weeks be over on the 30th?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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259. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
May 24, 1938

CHI. SUSHILA,

You will have received my letter of yesterday. Ba is enquiring when you will be coming back. Others are also enquiring, so am I. Whatever work you are doing there you can do here as well. You will be serving me besides. Vijaya is quite ill. So is Vasumati. Bhansali had seven glands taken out. You can certainly help in all these cases. Now you have been away sufficiently long. Think over it and write to me. Do you or do you not wish to come?

Whatever the case, you must cease your lamentations.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

C. S. had come today. The blood-pressure was 155/95 at 10 o'clock.

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

260. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
May 25, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have your letter. I understand from Mahadev's letter that you have not passed on some of my letters to Sushila. Now I know why some letters have remained unanswered. But I think you were right in withholding the letters. Only you can imagine Sushila's state of mind. It seems she is still suffering unnecessarily. Will she ever get over her suffering? What can I do from here to relieve her distress? Is it possible that she may recover if you bring her here even for a few days?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

261. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
May 25, 1938

STUPID DAUGHTER,

When will your sorrow end? In expressing your sorrow, you use words which pierce me like arrows. Have I ever worked for 12 hours in your presence?

Are you receiving Mahadev's letters now? Did I write to you that Mahadev had resolved to stop writing to you?

In today's letter you have reached the limit of your stupidity. Where is it laid down that if you see silver in a sea-shell once you will do so every time. And only yesterday I wrote that if something was possible in your case, it would be possible in my case too. Could it not be that I saw silver in a sea-shell?

You will have to withdraw the adjective "undeserving". Would you be undeserving when I considered you so or would you believe it of yourself on your own? Do you wish to abandon me altogether by saying that? Now I am unable to bear your sadness because there is no cause for it at all. Can even Pyarelal not tell you such a simple thing? Forget your sorrow, if only for my sake. What can I do to comfort you? Granted that you have made me unhappy. But have I made you any less unhappy? Who should blame whom? Why should we not leave it to God to decide?

When shall I have a comforting letter from you? Rajkumari's letter is enclosed. Let Devdas also read it.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

262. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
May 26, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

There is no letter from you today.

I was perturbed by Sushila's letter of yesterday. How can she be consoled? She seems to be hurt all the more by my letters. It seems that my letters, instead of healing her wounds, are keeping them raw. Why can you not console her? I am sure you understand my state of mind. As for the night of the 9th I have explained that I fully agree with what Sushila says. I have indeed said that her impression might not have been correct. By the same token, I also believe that my impression might not have been correct either. I am even going a step further. Sushila is witness to her purity of mind. I cannot even claim purity of mind. I am willing to admit that I might have had a dirty mind. Can it not be that my diseased mind might have aroused me and I might have seen the reflection of my own morbidity in that innocent girl and in her action? Why should Sushila feel unhappy when all this is possible? Why should she feel miserable on account of my morbidity, my delusion and my imperfection? Why should Sushila go on feeling unhappy in spite of my acceptance of all these possibilities? I am not accusing her of anything. If you are convinced by my argument, try to pacify Sushila in your own words and in your own way. I do not wish that she should be calm for my sake. I can be calm only if her mind accepts that there is no reason at all to feel perturbed. I have somehow started feeling that in all these incidents I alone have played the role of Satan and by imputing guilt to an innocent act have caused untold misery to Sushila, to Mahadev and even to you. Thus, while on the one hand I am beginning to feel calm under the intoxication of work, on the other hand, whenever there is free time, I keep analysing the incidents of the day of the 14th of April and the night of the 9th. I have found no clue so far.

I do not know if I shall find it at all. As Rajkumari says my faith in God is being tested. If Sushila cannot be pacified at all, I can see that it will be a terrible thing for me. But if she cannot be pacified what will you do? What will poor Sushila do? As for me, I shall reap what I have sown.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

You may use this if you really think it is proper. If I cannot reduce Sushila's misery, let me at least not add to it?

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

263. *LETTER TO SARASWATI*

SEGAON,
[After *May 26, 1938*][1]

CHI. SARASWATI,

I am glad I got your letter at least. Keep on writing thus.

You have not been tested. You had once said 'no', but there is no harm if you wish to marry now. Your earlier decision was immature. I cannot understand the resentment of your uncle and Mother.

What a cunning girl you are! Kanti was sent there for a month and now you ask for two. Don't do so. Don't keep Kanti for more than a month.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: G. N. 6153

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[1] From the contents it appears that this letter was written during the period of about a month that the addressee and Kantilal Gandhi had spent at Trivandrum. They had left Wardha for Trivandrum on May 26, 1938; *vide* also Vol. LXVII, pp. 97 and 130.

264. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
May 27, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

There has been no post from you yesterday and today. There are only three days before the 30th. I gather from Ba's broken sentences that you are planning to run away somewhere. I cannot believe it. But if you want to throw pepper into a raw wound you will do that too. Think of it if you can. Is not my prestige in your hands?

You will have received my letter of yesterday. My mind at present is inclined in that direction. I am back in the same state of mind as I was in on the 14th. If that conclusion is correct, have I not been like the guilty person arraigning the policemen? Can you be of some help in this as well? I shall feel greatly relieved if Sushila's agitation subsides.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

265. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
May 28, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

No letters from you for three days! I do not like it. You must be receiving my letters every day. The absence of your letters may also mean that both of you, brother and sister, will be arriving here on the 30th. In that case I shall forget the absence of your letters. You have sent all the luggage with Ba. That is an additional cause of worry. Have both of you deserted me? If the implication is as terrible as that, I have explained in my two previous letters what that would mean to me.

Maybe I deserve only that! Hence, I am not in a position to write anything more this time. If you are still in Delhi when this letter reaches there and if you have not written any letters in the meantime, send me a telegram immediately. I shall await it on Monday.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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266. LETTER TO PYARELAL

May 29, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

Give the enclosed letter to Sushila if you think it proper. It will give you an idea of my present state. It seems by entering into Sushila's life I have embittered it at least for the time being. How should I punish myself for it?

I have not shown your letter to Mahadev. I have understood your point. So far, I should say, I have not made any changes yet. The conflict is still going on. I like Mirabehn's conclusion better than that of all of you. That is exactly what Sushila's great anguish suggests. I attributed guilt where there was none. Does this not point to my own morbid state of mind? Mirabehn is not even aware of that incident. Yet she has warned me as gently as she could. The direct implication of Sushila's anguish is this : "What sort of a father are you that you saw guilt in an innocent girl?" Even by deserting me she gives me the same warning. She is of course taking the whole responsibility on herself. But if I let her do it, would it not be the limit of my wickedness? If this conclusion is correct, would I not be doing penance by not taking service from any woman? This question is before me in spite of myself. I am perplexed. I cannot see my way. I cannot make up my mind. Who can help me in this matter? Hence I am praying to God that He may either guide me or take me away.

I have taken note of your programme. Even for the sakes of Prakash, Satya and Sushila, stay there as long as necessary. Do not desert me altogether. Ba's remarks have scared me.

I have given vent to the fire that burns me. However, do not think that I am in the least disturbed. I continue working as much as I can. All the things have been safely received. What tyranny? Why did you join in it?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

267. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
May 29, 1938

CHI. SUSHILA,

I received your two letters together. For three days I talked to you only through Pyarelal. I do not know whether you have seen those letters or not. Be that as it may. I am picking up the courage to write to you today.

You have written : "When I have the faith that you understand me and I too understand myself, the period of my separation will also end." When will you have the faith that I understand you? When will you understand yourself? When you understand yourself you will have attained to the farthest reaches of knowledge. Then, instead of your coming to me, the whole world will come to you. In short, I have lost you. You are not an undeserving daughter. What trouble have you given me? I have not had such a thought even in my dreams. I have already been proved an undeserving father. Have I not troubled you enough? Am I not the one who saw guilt in your innocent act? I had lost you at that very moment. I had even told you so that day. I am reaping as I sowed. You have returned everything. Some of those things were meant solely for you. The microscope, etc., were not bought for me. They were bought only for you. Permit me to return those things to you if you can accept them.

What else should I write? I do not deserve even a letter from you. I shall of course feel happy if you write.

I could not do you any good, but God will.

Blessings from
Bapu

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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268. LETTER TO PYARELAL

Sevagram, Wardha,
May 30, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

You will have received the letter I wrote you yesterday. It seems I forgot to mention that I had not shown your letter to Mahadev.

I would wish this to be my last letter concerning the Sushila-Mahadev episode. So far as I am concerned, the conclusion I have come to from the facts that have come to me is final.

Sushila's firmness has opened my eyes. I thrust my suspicion on Mahadev. Only what Mahadev said to me on the 14th was correct. Whatever he wrote and said since then has been done merely under my influence. Hence, I must treat itas cancelled. In the process, the innocence of both of them comes out clear before me. My love was full of suspicion. That is why I saw pure gold as brass. I attributed my morbid tendencies to both of them. It is my cussedness which is the cause of Sushila's tortured state of mind. I have now got to look into the source of this cussedness. The fact that Sushila has abandoned me because she feels that she is undeserving is due to her determination not to see any cussedness in me. The result is of course good. I do not consider myself worthy even to touch Sushila. But would I thereby forget the anguish I have caused her? How can I expiate for maligning Mahadev? Did I not do the same with you in relation to Yoga? Your firm stand conquered me. I shall handle Mahadev. He cannot abandon me at all. When you could not abandon me, how can Mahadev do so?

You have been looking after Sushila. Bring her back into line.

Once your affairs are settled there you have got to come here. If you can give me a firm assurance about your coming, I can patiently wait.

Now about me. If I have caused anguish to Sushila even unknowingly, where do I have the right to serve women or be served by them? I cannot expiate for it by fasting. I cannot do it by suffering in any other way. My expiation can only be in one form and that to avoid the touch of women altogether and serve them from a distance in whatever way I can. In no sense have I been a *brahmachari* of my definition. I must make this known to my colleagues and do the necessary *sadhana* to approximate to my definition.

I do not know if my cussedness has gone that far. I am trying to carry on an impartial search in that direction. If it results in something, I shall inform you.

Neither you nor Sushila need be disturbed on reading this. I am certainly not perturbed. I am trying to understand myself in the light of the *Gita*. I am not troubled by my cussedness. I have not deliberately cultivated it. I was not aware of the stench I was carrying. But when Sushila's fragrance entered my nostrils I thought it was a stench. Such a feeling cannot develop in a day. The root must be lying deep somewhere. Who can unravel this tangle except God? He alone can pull us out of trouble. He will show me the way.

If Sushila can benefit by reading this letter, let her read it. Otherwise there is no need at all to show it to her.

I have already written to Mahadev something to this effect in the morning. I have said the same thing to him in a clear manner.

I do wish you would not feel upset. Nothing is to be gained by feeling upset at this time of trouble.

I am well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

269. LETTER TO PYARELAL

May 31, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have your letter. After writing to you yesterday, I think I can see my way clear.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI PYARELAL NAYYAR
19 RAJA BAZAR SQUARE
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

270. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
June 1, 1938

CHI. SUSHILA,

I received your two letters together. Now everything is changed, is it not? My letters of yesterday and the day before will have made this clear. Now I have more or less decided that with the exception of Ba I will not accept from any other woman any service involving physical contact. After that, there is no question at all of an affectionate touch. I have made another discovery. In saying that I alone might touch women and that no one else might do so, I was guilty of a terrible error—and for how many years I persisted in the error! I should have known that I could claim no scientific sanction for the experiment. I was impelled solely by my terrible arrogance. Among all my colleagues I considered only myself entitled to break the restrictions of *brahmacharya*. As long as I am not willing to accept my colleagues touching women I have not the slightest right to touch a woman. I hope to settle everything in a day or two. I have only your firmness to thank for making me see my error. In my view the restrictions I had laid down for you and Mahadev are no longer justified. What qualifies me to lay down such restrictions? When I admit that my accusing you was merely the reflection of my own failing, not yours or Mahadev's, where is the place for the restrictions set by me? To the extent I am involved in this affair, I am the guilty person, not you, nor Mahadev. I am writing all this dispassionately.

And what reward I gave you for your services! Now for Pyarelal. Mother's words were like nectar to me : "You have already taken away Pyare. Now you want to take away Sushila too ?" She was right. I did not do you any good. What good have I done to Pyarelal? Pyarelal's future would be the test whether my acts were good or evil. As for you, I still consider you stupid. You have worked for me like a benign spirit. But for your resolute stand, my eyes would not have been opened. I would have still been in the slumber of my illusions. Mirabehn has rightly said that I would have died repenting. God has alerted me only through you. Even though you came to me as a daughter, you have acted like a mother. Not my merit but maybe yours will save your brother.

It is good that you are helping Brijkrishna. My advice is that you should take the place for the hospital. You must be fully recovered. But who am I to guide you? You have got a brother like Pyarelal. He is with you. Do only what he says. After all, how can God give you up ? Who will be left for Him if He gives you up? You will always prosper. Do not worry about me. I am well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

271. LETTER TO PYARELAL

June 1, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

There is not enough time to write to you.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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272. TELEGRAM TO PYARELAL

WARDHA,
June 2, 1938

PYARELAL
19 RAJA SQUARE
NEW DELHI

YOURS. WAS WHOLLY UNPREPARED FOR REBELLION. SUSHILA'S RIGHT OF SERVING HAD BEEN SPECIALLY RESERVED. YOU MUST RELY ON YOUR ABILITY CONVINCE ME. IMPLORE YOU BOTH START. YOU WILL LEAVE WHEN YOU LIKE. IF YOU STILL WONT COME YOU WILL MAKE MY POSITION PRECARIOUS.

BAPU

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

273. NOTE TO ASHRAM INMATES[1]

Not Revised

June 2, 1938

I have been distressed since the 7th of April. I had a dirty dream that night. I did wake up before the crisis but I felt ashamed. After the experience I hardly slept that night. I was restless. I walked about on the terrace and calmed myself a little. I felt that I was not fit to accept service from Sushila and Prabhavati who slept close to my bed. After the prayer, I first recounted to them what I had been through and then told them that I would not be taking service from them. But both took this decision very badly. Within twelve hours I reviewed my decision and continued to take service from them. But my distress did not cease. On the 14th I had another type of experience which increased my shame and added to my anguish. I had not made any change in my outward behaviour. But consciously or unconsciously, my mind was preparing itself. While I was caught in that whirlpool, I had to meet Mr. Jinnah. I thought it was my duty to write something for the occasion. I wrote something and indicated my sense of shame in it.[2]

I had lost my self-confidence. I had shamed my *brahmacharya.* After a great deal of thought I have come to this decision. For the time being, and so long as I am able to bear such physical contact with other people, I should not take any service from women which involves physical contact, unless it is absolutely unavoidable. It is obvious that I must not touch them in jest or in affection. This change is very important to me. My whole life has been shaped in the belief that there is nothing wrong about innocent physical touch of women. Before I took the vow of *brahmacharya* and after, I touched numerous women in a light-hearted way or in affection, I have not experienced any adverse effect thereby and have not known any woman who may have been sensually aroused.

But a doubt arose after my experience of the 7th April. Why have I not become free from passion in spite of my constant efforts towards *brahmacharya*? Why have my thoughts and my mind not become purer and purer? I can say that I have not felt myself free from carnal desire in India as much as I did in South Africa. Could the contact with women have obstructed my path in some subtle way? Who can answer that question? The only solution is that unless God Himself answers it, I should try to shun all physical touch and understand my own mind and conquer it.

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[1] An extract from this appears in Vol. LXVII, p. 104.

[2] *Ibid*, pp. 36-8.

Yesterday it became clear to me as day that it was very wrong of me to prevent my colleagues from taking the liberties which I myself have taken. I still cannot understand how I allowed it to happen for so many years. It seems to me that behind that restriction was my pride. It was a failing. I should not have undertaken the experiment if it was so terrible. If it was worth undertaking, I should have encouraged all my colleagues to pursue it on my condition. My experiment was a transgression of the limits prescribed by *brahmacharya*. Only a sage like Shukadevji who was always pure in thought, speech and action would be entitled to exercise such freedom. Such thinking led me to the above decision yesterday.

I feel that the bitter experiences of Dahyabhai and others at Sabarmati had my experiment at their root. Who can say in how many cases my behaviour has led to wrong actions?

Only he who can observe complete *brahmacharya* can give complete training in non-violence. I am the self-appointed leader of the path of non-violence! What wonder if my non-violence is weak to the extent that I cannot pass the above test? Even then, I shall continue my experiment in non-violence so long as I feel convinced that even my imperfect *brahmacharya* has lent considerable support to non-violence. Otherwise too my behaviour would remain the same at least for the present. Who can say where the future will lead me? My strongest desire is to submit lovingly to God and let myself be driven whither He wills.

It was my clear duty to convey this much to my co-workers. I assume that any co-worker who wishes will let me know his reactions and point out any error he may find in my thinking.

BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

274. LETTER TO PYARELAL

June 2, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

Your letter was received late. You had written 'Shegaon', which is not this Segaon. The letter went to some other Shegaon. If you write 'Wardha', I shall receive the letters regularly and intact. The postal service is bad here.

You must have read my letter to Sushila which I wrote yesterday. You will see that I have gone further ahead. Now what have I got to draw out of Sushila? The whole misunderstanding arose because of my misguided imagination and poor Sushila had to pass through an ordeal. I am not now feeling sorry about it. Whatever I did had been prompted by my love. But according to my definition I proved to be a father with sensual tendencies. How can such a father do justice even to his own children? He would see his morbidities in others. Where do you figure in this? According to my analysis, this entire tragic episode is the result of my mistaken thinking. Now my eyes have been opened and so things must calm down. Does my diagnosis now sound complete? The credit for everything goes to Sushila's firmness.

I have now understood about Sushila. Now why should I worry? Did my worry have behind it the fear that Sushila migh be harbouring a scorpion? Sushila having shown her crystal purity, why should I worry about her? She will shine wherever she settles.

I am enclosing a copy of the I note[1] have addressed to co-workers. I hope it will make everything clear. Give this to Devdas to read.

What should I say about you? My conclusion is clear. If I have to lose you, the blame will be entirely on me. I realize that in some matters I am slow-witted. I shall not go into a fresh analysis of myself. If I lose you, I shall know myself as I really am. If I can have you back with me in the natural course, I shall feel reassured that I was not an absolutely undeserving co-worker and father. I have written to Sushila that if my meritorious acts do not save me, hers will certainly save her. During this period of turmoil I have without a doubt obtained a jewel in the person of Sushila. By saying this, I am not undeservedly praising her. I am describing her as I see her at present. Your letter of today confirms that thought.

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[1] *Vide* pp. 171-72.

Sushila writes that I should get my blood-pressure taken twice a day and get my urine also examined twice a day. That will be possible when you come here and attend to it. I am myself not too keen about it. All that Sushila wants you can carry out. But definitely not right now. Only after you have settled everything there and settled Sushila well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

275. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

SEGAON, WARDHA,
[On or after *June 2, 1938*][1]

STUPID DAUGHTER SUSHILA,

There is no letter from you. Then why should I write? But on second thoughts I decided to write.

My decision should not hurt you in the least. Though stupid, you are intelligent enough to see that my decision is absolutely independent and inescapable. How can I do what others could not do? How was it I did not understand such a self-evident thing, till today? Why was I so silly? And yet, I do not hesitate to call you stupid!

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] From the contents it appears that the letter belongs to this period.

276. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

[After *June 2, 1938*][1]

STUPID GIRL,

Are you trying to prove your stupidity? What did I know of your purity before Mahadev told me? Since then I have been taking service from you. If you too have experienced desire, it is as well. For then we are both in the same plight and we both ought to be on our guard. For me it is sufficient that I am on my guard. The day I have to save myself from you, you will only see my dead body, you will not see me alive. After my 69 years, the *vikara*[2] in you cannot affect me. I burn with my own *vikara*. Because of my *vikara* I regard myself unfit to take service from any woman. For that reason, you are free to abandon me, but you are always telling me that you do not want to leave me under any circumstances, so I must accept your services in all humility.

Have you read the letters of others? No one has any complaint to make. Mirabehn had only imagined things. Even then there was no complaint against you. Only I have a complaint. But that is a different story altogether. You should forget these people.

You have to consider two questions. I must not take you away from your duty to Mother. Deep in your heart you desire to study. It is a good desire too. Should I make you give up that desire and continue taking service from you? These two questions are very pertinent.

About my experiment later. I can write now, but you must show pity for my hand.

BAPU

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] This letter is written on the reverse side of the addressee's letter to Gandhiji dated June 2, 1938.

[2] Meaning here lustfulness

277. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEGAON, WARDHA,
June 3, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

It was not difficult for me to read even those portions in your letter which were scored out. You have harassed Sushila for no reason. But she has already passed through the ordeal. It was just as well that she was thus tested. You too should stop lamenting. My decision is based on entirely different grounds. It has nothing to do with Mira's argument. It is not possible that my argument would have occurred to Mira. If I see something wrong in a practice I have continued for forty years, shall I not say that there is the hand of God in it? That was why I did not wait for your and Sushila's letters. Now you can both see that even if it could be proved that Sushila was perhaps on the verge of succumbing to impure thoughts, my conclusion would remain unaltered. So long as I am not prepared to allow others to do what I do myself, why should I do it? This seems to me self-evident. I am now beginning to see this fault has a historical background. After my decision all of us must feel at ease. According to me everything has become clear.

I understand about the machines. Only you can put them to use. Right now I am not even in a position to tempt Sushila. When she comes on her own I shall of course embrace her in spite of my having stopped taking service from women. But right now her well-being does not lie with me. It lies in her settling somewhere. But it is not for me to decide. Only you two should jointly decide. I see from what you have scored out in your letter that you are shouldering a heavy responsibility there. I do wish you would leave as soon as the problems are solved. And if Sushila wishes to come, her place will be higher than it was. Where would you escape to by running away from me! Such words should not have come from your pen. I am returning your letter.

My health I should say is good.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Reply at Wardha address.

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

278. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
June 3, 1938

STUPID DAUGHTER,

You are like a benevolent spirit but you unfailingly show your stupidity. What letters you write! Who can stop you if you are eager to rush back to an unjust father? I see that you were not in any way at fault. My own blunder is very clear to me. Even then you are trying to convince yourself that the fault was yours. Is it not stupidity? Now be calm. Take up some work there. When Pyarelal is ready to come, you may also come if you wish. Do not torment me by saying that you have lost your place with me.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

279. TELEGRAM TO PYARELAL

WARDHAGANJ,
June 4, 1938

PYARELAL
19 RAJA BAZAR SQUARE
NEW DELHI

NO CASE CAN SUSHILA COME ALONE. MOST WELCOME IF BOTH COME. LOVE.

BAPU

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

280. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEGAON, WARDHA,
June 4, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have read your letter to Mahadev. Why so much lamentation now? Having taken the decision I am now absolutely at peace. Even Mahadev is calm as far as I can understand him. I am not worried about Sushila either. You are there. That particular incident has nothing to do with my decision. Although it provided the immediate pretext I have justified it independently of that incident. Even if Mahadev and Sushila had been proved guilty instead of innocent, I would still consider my decision right. Since they have been proved innocent my decision is of course correct. My decision is not at all by way of expiation. Whatever blame I am taking upon myself appears to me justified. It may well not be so. But even if the cause of the incidents of the 9th and the 14th is proved to be purely imaginary the legitimacy of my decision holds. Very often, a decision becomes necessary to open our eyes. Hence, let us stop lamenting. Let us forget the past and look after the present.

Sushila therefore does not have to come to pacify me or to find her peace of mind. I would certainly like to have Sushila by my side. I would take service from her in so many ways. But I would be afraid to let her come alone. She is a chain that binds. I would not willingly permit you to keep out. I wish your presence even without her. I would be very happy if she too accompanied you. That is why I have sent a telegram[1] today to let you know my state of mind. Now decide what seems right after taking into consideration what needs to be done there. I am in fine fettle.

What Sushila's instrument says or what the urine test indicates only Sushila or you will know. But I am sleeping well and eating well. My diet includes 10 to 12 oz. of milk, *roti*, vegetables, garlic, onions and fruit. This is sufficient. I am not taking jaggery for the present. In the afternoon I take juice of raw mango or lime with soda. I have a tub-bath in the morning. I rub ghee on the soles of my feet twice a day. I massage my head with oil at night. As usual, I apply mud-pack to my abdomen morning and evening. This is for two to two-and-a-half hours altogether. I take light walks. I invariably sleep in the afternoon.

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[1] *Vide* the preceding item.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

281. TELEGRAM TO PYARELAL

WARDHA,
June 5, 1938

PYARELAL
19 RAJA BAZAR SQUARE
NEW DELHI

READ LETTERS. BOTH START TODAY UNFAILINGLY. REPLY. LOVE.

BAPU

From a copy : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

282. LETTER TO PYARELAL

June 5, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

I hope that before you get this letter, both of you will have arrived here. I had sent one telegram yesterday. Today I am sending another. I am sure you will not delay it. Both of you have understood me wrong. Nothing can be explained through letters. Poor Durga knows nothing. I do not think she has even the slightest suspicion. And now what is there to discuss? I have explained this in my letter of yesterday. But I shall not write anything more. I think I have not blundered. But if you can prove that I have, do you think I shall take long to make amends? You are unnecessarily putting the whole blame on Sushila. I have not exonerated Mahadev independently. What I am saying is that the scale by which I was measuring Mahadev was itself faulty. He is innocent from that point of view. Right now, Mahadev has lost all capacity to decide whether or not he has committed a wrong. My wretched suggestions are responsible for that. What can poor Mahadev do? Hence it is useless if he considers himself innocent and a thousand times more so if he considers himself guilty. Sushila's case is different. But today's letter puts her in Mahadev's position. Both you and I are responsible for that. And even there do I not take the lead? Sushila's agony started with my intimation [of the happening] of the 14th. But I have not taken my decision on that basis at all. It does not involve any expiation. It involves awareness on your part. In your view it is utter ignorance. If you prove that to me I shall swallow my pride. I shall do what I did about Bardoli. Hence, if both of you have not already started, do so after seeing this letter.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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283. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

June 5, 1938

STUPID SUSHILA,

How stupid you are! Sitting there, you cry and make me cry!!! You are unnecessarily taking the blame upon your self. I have not given up taking service from Ba. Other women feel a little unhappy, but they are cheerful. They have also understood the point. A. S. does feel miserable. But I am also making her laugh quite a bit. She is more stupid than you. She too will calm down in a few days. I hope that abiding by my order, both of you will have arrived here. It is impossible to start today. I am writing this letter so that the day does not pass without communication in case you are unable to leave. Stop crying now. I am eager to see you laugh. You have committed no sin.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

284. LETTER TO PYARELAL

June 6, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

Notwithstanding all my explaining what anger, what misunderstanding and what lamentation! You even refuse to understand what in my belief is cent-per-cent truth. But I shall not write more. It is my hope that this letter will be proved superfluous, and honouring my command, both you brother and sister will be on your way here. You have not fully understood my step. I hope to explain to you fully when you come. All of us cannot be mad at the same time. Either I shall be proved right or you two on your part will have to give up your obstinacy. Then why fear? We shall understand at once when we meet. If you have not left already, you must leave at once after seeing this letter. I do not know what will happen if you really do not come.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

285. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

June 6, 1938

STUPID GIRL,

Is there any limit to your stupidity? How could I abandon you forever? Why are you raising me so high? The place you assign to me is not my place, though I certainly wish it was. My experience on the night of the 7th could not in any way have been influenced by the prurience of any of you. As for the incident of the 14th, I find only my own sensuality reflected in it. I shall explain it further when we meet. Why do you presume the existence of something in your heart which was not there ? Your saying such a thing is a matter of shame for me. I constantly see that I am sensual. In that case why should we ignore what is evident and look for what is not evident? But you both will have left before this letter reaches Delhi.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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286. LETTER TO KANTILAL GANDHI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
[After *June 25, 1938*][1]

CHI. KANTI,

I have been regretting having called Saraswati. She has been miserable ever since you left. She told Vasumati so the day before yesterday, and Vasumati told me. I had a long talk with Saraswati. She said : "I cannot live without Kanti. Send me to Bangalore." I got into a fluster. I said : "I certainly could not do that. It would interfere with Kanti's studies. It would also spoil your life and your parents would not approve of it. But I shall write to him. You too may write." But she was not satisfied with that. She told me this morning: "Call Kanti. Send him a telegram." I did not agree at first. Then I felt that I should at least inform you and so sent you a telegram. You must have received it. She goes on repeating : "If K. does not come, send me to Bangalore." I did not like your not having stayed on. I am now in a fix. I cannot trust her word. I do not even know what is in your mind. It is my firm opinion that you should make it clear to her that you two cannot live together till you are married. You certainly cannot abandon your studies and come away. It is a different matter if you marry immediately and live together. But none of her elders would be agreeable to that. Your firmness is absolutely essential in the interest of Saraswati's progress. Without that she would be completely ruined. And you too will not be happy. But this is only my opinion.

From a copy of the Gujarati: C. W. 7389. Courtesy: Kantilal Gandhi

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[1] From the contents; *vide* Vol. LXVII, p. 136.

287. LETTER TO PADMAJA NAIDU

SEGAON,
July 8, 1938

DEAR LOTUS-BORN,

Hope you have been behaving yourself and that Bhopal air has done you good. But tell me if you are ever going to be fit enough to do active work. Don't tell me that you did excellent work about Hyderabad famine and the like.

LOVE.

PLAYMATE

From the original : Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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288. LETTER TO PYARELAL

July 11, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

You are at present ruling over me. I often feel like complaining but I dare not. How did I come to have so much fear?

I am perturbed by Hakumat Rai's warning. Sushila will not recover if she is forced to eat. She will recover only when the fear which is lodged in her mind is removed. I have not seen such a woman anywhere. I cannot bear to look at her face. You see how unhappy Ba is.

I am trying hard to comprehend your idea of your duty but I am baffled. I find your fasts irksome. I shall suffer so long as you make me suffer. But is it not your duty to let me know?

Is my experience worth nothing at all? It is true that I no longer have the right to write like this after my lapse of April 14. But since you attach no importance to the lapse you should give my writing the importance it deserves.

I have freed you from all anxiety. If you must fast, I will not fast with you. Right now I am doing it without any deliberation. I am trying to follow whither God leads me. But who knows if it is not Satan rather than God guiding me? But I am carrying on in the belief that it is God who is guiding me. My wish is not to worry about you or Sushila. But that does not happen. I do worry about those who have become part of me. Free me from anxiety on your account if you can. Consider Sushila.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

I do not think Sushila need see this letter. However, do what you think proper.

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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289. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

July 15, 1938

CHI. LILA,

Do take tea if you cannot maintain your health without it. If you can do without it, try to forgo it. But you have got to keep good health. If you apply mud-pack to the stomach at night, it should do some good. Instead of tea, one can take hot water and milk with jaggery or honey. About bananas Mahadev will have told you. Be it good things or bad things keep writing to me. It is desirable that you get rid of bad thoughts. But if they do come, it will only be to your good to write to me.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

290. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

July 17, 1938

CHI. MATHURADAS,

I have read your note. I have forwarded to him the question arising out of the point you make. The rest seems all right. It is short and to the point. I am doing well. Taramati and the children will be well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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291. LETTER TO PYARELAL

July 23, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

You were to write something on education. You have not done it yet. It will be good if you write. Why not give your own experience ? You should not think that you cannot express yourself if you hold a view different from mine.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

292. LETTER TO HANNAH LAZAR[1]

[August 1, 1938][2]

If he has money to spare, he has to send you back when the climate is bearable and you have trained yourself in South Africa for the Indian life as you now know it—no risks can be taken here. And what is the use of your going away from me for three months? And if you have to go away, then off to the far south, that is to say, since you can't stay here in Segaon for three months, you have to go away. Therefore, the safest thing is to go to the far south, i. e., South Africa, and then, if all is well, you may return when the cold climate sets in.

From the original : Gandhi-Kallenbach Correspondence. Courtesy : National Archives of India

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293. TELEGRAM TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

WARDHAGANJ,
August 5, 1938

MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI
74 WALKESHWAR
BOMBAY HIGH

ARRANGE SALVATION ARMY SEND IMMEDIATELY TWELVE STERILE EGGS.

BAPU

From the original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Niece of Herman Kallenbach

[2] As noted by the addressee

294. LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

MAGANWADI,
WARDHA (C. P.),
August 6, 1938

DEAR DR. GOPICHAND,

I have your letter of the first instant. I had the earlier letters also. Bapu had no opportunity to have a talk with the Maulana, because other important subjects engaged the whole of the time and attention of the W. C. Bapu thinks that no member of the Parliamentary Board has a right to dictate any important course of action without reference to the Working Committee. You will therefore represent the matter to the Working Committee, who will consider it at the next meeting.

Yours sincerely,
MAHADEV DESAI

From the original : Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

295. LETTER TO PYARELAL

August 8, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

I would ask you to stop fasting on Mondays and Thursdays so long as you do not get over your weakness. If I am entitled to command you, this is my command. Your weakness is unbearable to me.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

296. LETTER TO PYARELAL

August 8, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

I could not wholly understand your letter. What have I or Sushila done to aggravate your uneasiness ? I never at all interfere with your discipline. I am rying to root out the very desire to do so.

I am sure that you will not disregard my letter.

In what way are you in darkness ? I really do not understand. Why do you not leave everying to God? But everyone does not worship Him in the same way. Your way of worshipping may be appropriate for you. I am trying to understand in what way it is so.

My orders are not unnatural. They certainly cannot be so in your case. That is why I wrote that I was commanding you only if I was entitled to command you. It meant that the command should easily go down with you. It should have immediately occurred to you that what Bapu said was justified. Since that has not happened, take it that my order is withdrawn. I do not want to force it on you if it makes you unhappy. I only want to do what will bring you peace.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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297. LETTER TO PYARELAL

August 10, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

What tyranny is this! My claim as father and mother to you two, brother and sister, is absolutely nullified. Why did you go there? Why should you interfere if Sushila has patients on hand? But you were bent on going and you said that Sushila was free not to go if she did not want to.

So leaving the patients at God's mercy and yours, I have sent her to the hospital crying. Now explain to her her duty and pacify her if you can. Come back soon. It should not be necessary for me to go there.

Girdhari and Draupadi are sitting right in front of me.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

298. *LETTER TO PYARELAL*

August 12, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

At the moment I am unable to talk. If I try, I am likely to burst into loud wailing. I cannot reason with you. You have thrown a new light on things today. No vows, no religion—since I know no satisfaction outside these, how can I understand?

Still, I shall talk with you when I am in a position to do so. In the mean time you may take the liquids that you like. If the stomach is still heavy with what you took in the afternoon, what can you drink? I have now given up insisting on anything. Do whatever brings you satisfaction. I had thought you were under my protection. But where do I have the purity for it? You are under the protection of God. Let His will be done.

Am I also not under His protection? I shall be guided by Him. Right now, the doors to light are closed. The light of love will shine when the time for it comes.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

299. *LETTER TO PYARELAL*

August 12, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

It is not right that you do not take liquids. What I am doing is not because I am angry with you. If I am angry, it is only with myself. I am not sorry that you are not taking glucose. Now I am thinking about my own duty. If you are inclined to help me, be calm and regain your health by taking whatever you want to while keeping within limits. I do not wish to force you to eat or drink anything against your will. I had only come to persuade you. During that visit I got a certain impression. How can I ignore it? It prevents me from holding you guilty. Could it be that it is I who am under the influence of evil stars ? Or, if what I am doing is right, why bewail it ? Hence I would urge you to take the necessary treatment. It is not at all right that just because I am not able to eat at present you also should not eat.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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300. TELEGRAM TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

WARDHAGANJ,
August 15, 1938

MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI
74 WALKESHWAR ROAD
BOMBAY HIGH

YOUR "ARGUMENT" SOUND. MISGIVINGS JUSTIFIED BUT INCLUSION SEEMS INEVITABLE.

BAPU

From the original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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301. LETTER TO PYARELAL

August 15, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

Why should I feel bad if you enquired about my blood-pressure? But what reply could I give? What is the way when anxiety is eating me? I continue my efforts. But what about my respon- sibility for whatever is happening? My constant thought is only that you should soon be well and leave your bed. Did I not write to you that your illness would be unbearable to me? But I did not know how unbearable it would be. What can I do?

Blessings from
BAPU

[P.S.]

There is no need to reply to this. It will be sufficient if you have peace.

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

302. LETTER TO TARADEVI NAYYAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 15, 1938

DEAR SISTER,

What can I write? You will know everything from Sushila's letter. Pyarelal gets whatever service he needs. I have become quite useless. Pyarelal's illness is a test for me. It is a difficult test. I am sure Pyarelal will live. If not, I shall be responsible for his death.

Do come over if you want. Do not worry.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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303. NOTE TO PYARELAL

[After *August 15, 1938*][1]

PYARELAL,

It can take a little more jaggery. The skin should be cooked a little longer. The seeds should be cooked too. The seeds are not eaten. But their property is different. You can eat them if you like the taste.[2] How long did it take to cook in jaggery? I did tell you about cutting them, did I not? You can eat anything else you wish.

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The note is written on the reverse side of a letter dated August 15, 1938.

[2] This sentence is in Gujarati.

304. LETTER TO PYARELAL

August 16, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

I would certainly feel happy if you allowed someone or other to sit with you by turns. As it is I find it difficult to take even a minute of Sushila's time. If while she nursed you, you had someone by your side it would not be so difficult. But what pleases you will please me. I am letting you know what has been agitating me these last two days. Give your reply to Sushila.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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305. LETTER TO PYARELAL

August 17, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

There seems to be something the matter with my health today. I could not even sleep at night. Could yesterday's conversation be the reason for it? I did not wish to express my opinion. But since you insisted I wrote it to you. Right now I have only one wish : not to entertain any thought, utter any word, write any sentence, that may hurt you. I am only counting days for you to recover fully. I hope for your part you will make full efforts. If you resolve to get well, you will certainly succeed.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

306. LETTER TO JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM[1]

SEGAON,
August 26, 1938

MY DEAR JAIRAMDAS,

You should have no worry on you while you are rebuilding your body. In this we may well copy Englishmen. Out of office they forget the office cares and every day come fresh to work. If they get ill they know that they must rest and trust that without them the nation's business will go on as usual. This is true *Gita* living. It is the soundest economy.

Yes, I remember the two girls.

Know that it was not Premi[2] who prompted my wire. I had made up my mind when Girdhari[3] gave me the account. Premi's letter added zest to the wording of the wire.

Premi made a definite promise to write to me in Hindi. She has now a rare opportunity of learning it there and so have you all. Premi will have no letter from me till she has redeemed her promise.

Love to you all and the Kripalanis.

BAPU

[PS.]

Pyarelal is decidedly on the mend.

From the original: C. W. 11043. Courtesy: Arjun Jairamdas

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[1] The first paragraph of the letter has been reproduced in Vol. LXVII, p. 286, under the date August 27, 1938.

[2] Addressee's daughter

[3] Girdhari Kripalani, nephew of J. B. Kripalani

307. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

SEVAGRAM,
August 27, 1938

CHI. MRIDU,

There is no harm in holding public meetings in support, provided the speeches at the meetings are courteous and not critical. The purpose should be to help the members representing the Congress. You yourself should write to Bhulabhai.

Mrs. Subbaroyan is very sensitive. Ask her why she felt insulted. I know her quite well. She was happy to find support in *Harijan*.[1] She has written a good letter to Mahadev. Do not be impatient.

I have instructed Mahadev to write to Bhulabhai. The Working Committee has not taken any decision in this matter. You should write to the President urging him to guide the legislators. That is all.

Leena[2], Madan[3] and Mummy will be doing well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : C. W. 11807. Courtesy : Sarabhai Foundation

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308. LETTER TO PYARELAL

August 27, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

Do not be in a hurry to regain strength. If you can suck the pomegranate seeds without swallowing the stones do so. Stop all work until you are free from fever for 24 hours.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Mrs. Radhabai Subbaroyan had proposed a bill to restrain polygamous marriages among Hindus. The Act as it was to be enacted, had been spelt out in the *Harijan* of July 23, 1938.

[2] Addressee's sister

[3] Madan Mohan Mangaldas, husband of Leena

309. LETTER TO HANNA LAZAR

August 28, 1938

MY DEAR HANNA,

Just one line to tell you I have your letter from Mombassa with your carefully prepared notes with considerately made multiple copies.

I hope you had an enjoyable voyage and that you have regained lost health. You must make proper preparations for your next visit here.

Except from you no further letter from Johannesburg.

Love to you all.

BAPU

[PS.]

Pyarelal is normal today. How nice you were not here during the typhoid he was passing through.

From the original : Gandhi-Kallenbach Correspondence. Courtesy : National Archives of India

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310. LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

SEGAON,
August 30, 1938

BHAI GOPICHAND,

Rajkumari showed me your letter. I understood you had asked my personal opinion. If no tangible service is possible by remaining in the Assembly and if the Congress M. L. A.s do not extend any help, it would be best to get out of the bother. Even as it is, I had not liked your getting into the Assembly.

Now I have had a letter from Dr. Dharma Vir. If he cannot at all meet the trustees, why not relieve him? There has been some difference of opinion here. Can't we find another doctor? In that case I feel he would have to be allowed a certain measure of freedom.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

311. LETTER TO RAJENDRA PRASAD

August 31, 1938

DEAR RAJENDRA BABU,

It seems to me that we do not read in the right spirit what our opponents write. The point is not that the language is abusive. The socialists are carrying on massive activities for an ideal. We should not ignore them. There is some criticism of the Bihar Bill in the current *Congress Socialist*. There are other articles too. Read them. Write an article about the Bihar Bill in reply to the article in the *Congress Socialist*. If something has been written about the matter I should like to see it.

I am sending with this three Hindi weeklies. Glance through them. Somebody at least should read such things. We should not be unaware of all these ideas.

Leaflets should be distributed among the peasants on behalf of the Congress governments. This suggestion should be implemented at once.

Show this letter to Kishorelal and Mahadev.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Rajendra Prasad Papers. Courtesy : National Archives of India

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312. LETTER TO MAHADEV DESAI

[August, 1938][1]

CHI. MAHADEV,

Please have this wire despatched : 'Dr. Zakir Husain. Hope new Institute will fulfil expectations. Gandhi.'

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : S. N. 11614

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[1] As placed in the source

313. LETTER TO PYARELAL

September 1, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

Munnalal's letter was not meant to be read by you. You are still considered an invalid. Besides, you should not be upset by what Munnalal says, but should accept anything that may be good in it. In any case, the letter is not for Mother[1]. I would consider it sinful even to tell her anything. With you and Sushila around, I am not worried about Mother. I take it that there will be no hesitation in asking for whatever may be needed by her. I must know when she does not get what she asks for. The origin of Munnalal's letter lies in the conversation between Sushila and me. I had asked Sushila to keep an eye on things. She brought to my notice instances of uncleanliness. I made inquiries and then there was a certain improvement. The matter went further and it was desired that rather than make comments in front of everybody one should put down things in writing. That was why Munnalal wrote that letter. Thus, knowing as I do his nature, I cannot find fault with him.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

314. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEGAON,
September 3, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

Your health today makes me a little scared. Take care and regain your health. Do not give up fruit juice. Take also buttermilk. It will be some time before you can take vegetables. Barley can be started again.

You have seen the letter Sushila has written me. I did not want to involve you in the problem at this time, but now it seems it cannot be avoided.

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[1] Taradevi Nayyar

Mother says that I should order Sushila to apply for that job. Sushila does not seem to like the idea. Whether she will have complete peace of course rests in your hands and mine. But whatever peace she can have depends only on her staying with both of us. Hence, in my view, Mother should let Sushila do what she wishes. If you agree with this, would you persuade her on my behalf? If you think this is beyond your capacity at the moment, then let me know. I will see about it. If you are entertaining a different idea, let me know, so that I can think it over again.

We may have to go to Delhi from here around the 19th and then on to the Frontier Province. I hope you will be ready by that time.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

315. LETTER TO PYARELAL

September 5, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

Let no one hurt Mother's sentiments. You will not hurt Sushila of course.

Mahadev's letter about Rajkumari contained her views about all of you. My reply to your letter is still pending.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

316. LETTER TO MAHADEV DESAI

[Before *September 6, 1938*][1]

CHI. MAHADEV,

Please send the following wire to Shankerlal : 'Suggested dates Delhi accepted. Hope you better. Bapu.' I am sending with this the bottle of honey. Lilavati forgot it as usual.

Mother has arrived there. She knows what is dharma but shrinks from acting accordingly. My advice is that you should tell her that she should decide the matter with me. If, however, you can see your way clear, do guide her. Tell me also if you have any suggestions to make. I have intentionally kept you out of this. How much burden can I put on you? I feel no burden.

BAPU

[PS.]

Please send this to Saxena[2] : 'Hope paper will always represent truth and non-violence. Gandhi.'

From a photostat of the Gujarati : S. N. 11642

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[1] From the contents it appears that the letter belongs to the year 1938. The month and the date are presumed from Gandhiji's letter to Abdul Ghaffar Khan, wherein he says, "The date of the W. C. is now finally fixed"; *vide* Vol. LXVII, p. 311.

[2] Mohanlal Saxena, General Manager, Associated Journals, Lucknow, the publishers of *The National Herald*, the first issue of which appeared on September 9, 1938; *vide* also Vol. LXVII, p. 321.

317. LETTER TO PYARELAL

September 7, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have told Sushila what I had to. Now her good lies in her doing what she thinks proper. She need not act under pressure from Mother. But if she is moved by Mother's love, she should not grumble. We do many things moved by parental love and find joy in doing them. I shall be content with whatever she does.

As for you, what can I say? I see that our ideas of duty differ. You see the same thing in one way, I in another way. So we must tolerate each other and pray that the veil of untruth may be lifted and we may both see the same truth.

What I wish is that, if possible, you should assure me and Sushila that you will not take any step at least while I am alive. Even that you should not do mechanically. Do it only if you can do so naturally.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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318. LETTER TO TARADEVI NAYYAR

SEGAON,
September 7, 1938

DEAR MATAJI,

You can write to me in Urdu. Your letter has pained me a great deal. Those who live with me never turn beggars. I consider myself the richest person. Beggars are those who work for salaries, because they are always wanting more and more. They want promotions, no matter how. I urge you not to press Sushila. Persuade her by love and argument. Let her go her way if she is not convinced at heart. Parents who order their grown-up children about, commit a sin. Save yourself from such a sin. Pyare and Sushila are enjoying greater authority than you ever did. You had money power. Why delight in the memory of these things and why shed tears thinking about them? Did not Father do good to others? Can one do good only by securing a big job? Are not Pyare and Sushila doing altruistic work? Their life is full of it. Enough is enough. Listen to me and free Sushila of anxiety in good cheer.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

319. *NOTE TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

[After *September 7, 1938*][1]

STUPID GIRL,

Your letter of today has pained me much. Why are you so weak? How is it that you want to serve and at the same time lack self-confidence? Whatever happens, I do not wish to see you sad. Remember today's *bhajan.*

BAPU

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

320. *NOTE TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

September 8, 1938

You are quite mad. If I love you a lot I have also made you cry a lot. I do not know in what way you torment me. But if you are truly my daughter, worrying about you should be, as it is, a matter of joy to me.

Leave Mother to me. If you stay here, it will only be with her blessings, not otherwise.

BAPU

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] This note is written on the reverse of a communication carrying the postmark "September 7, 1938".

321. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

September 10, 1938

CHI. SUSHILA,

What must I do to please you? I gave you the cutting to make you laugh. It only hurt you. I showed you Mahadev's letter to make you see what I feel. Even that hurt you.

Why are you so sensitive? If Mother does not see your good the way I see it, how can I keep you? Even you agree that Mother should be kept happy.

Now be calm. Whatever has to happen will happen. If you cannot have peace by staying with me, then leave me. If you think it is in your interest to stay with me, what does it matter to you . . . [1]

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

322. LETTER TO PYARELAL

Unrevised *September 11, 1938*

CHI. PYARELAL,

Yesterday I had a long talk with Mother. As I see it she will not be at peace till Sushila goes to Delhi. It also seems to me that although Sushila's heart is here, she cannot stay here in peace so long as Mother is not at ease. And that is how it should be. Children can hardly find peace by making the parents miserable. That would require a special reason involving a religious principle as it was in the case of Prahlad. Sushila does not have such a reason. My idea of Sushila's good is irrelevant here. Hence I feel that Sushila must decide in favour of Delhi. Mother insists that I should send a letter to Sushila. So if you brother and sister agree with my view I shall send the letter.

There is no cause for worry about my health. I shall take care of it. I certainly do not desire to end my life.

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[1] Illegible in the source

Mahadev being an invalid I certainly wish to take work from you. But can you work like him in your present state of mind? I do not wish to burden you. At the same time, we have to decide what you should do when Mahadev recovers. If it is necessary for you to be in Delhi for the sake of the peace of mind of Sushila and Mother, you must be there. It seems to me that none of us, especially I, have given any thought to Mother. Only this time I have been able somewhat to understand her. I can understand every feeling of hers and I appreciate it. Hence, from now on, in whatever I think about the two of you, I shall always keep in mind Mother's feelings.

Do not hurt her feelings. Talk to her patiently and cheer her up.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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323. NOTE TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

[After *September 11, 1938*][1]

This letter is also a madness. Living with me, you shall not continue to be silly. How can you be affected by whatever other people may say or do? Yes, if Mother's feelings are hurt even slightly, it should be intolerable to both of us. Criticism from others has got to be faced.

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The note is written on the reverse side of a letter from the addressee, dated September 11, 1938.

324. A CIRCULAR LETTER[1]

September 12, 1938

I hear that the inmates of the Ashram have been complaining quite a lot about the way Sushilabehn serves me. One complaint is of partiality. The other is that I am crossing my limits. For instance, I lean on her shoulders while walking, which cannot be part of the service. Even when Krishnachandra is present I prefer Sushila's shoulders to lean on. I let Sushila have her bath just when I am myself having my bath. And I cover myself with her *sari* when there is no need for it.

I feel that those who have been talking in this way have betrayed me. It is the clear duty of those who have any grudge in this regard to tell me so at once.

I have never been conscious of any sin in my physical contacts with women. That is why when I accepted service from Sushila, I did not want to exclude my leaning on her shoulders. I consider service from Sushila necesary for me if it is available. No one should have the slightest suspicion of partiality in this. I have an impression that I had made all this clear when I discussed this matter the last time.

There are two new points. Why does Sushila have her bath in the same bathroom when I am lying in the bathtub? The suggestion was mine. I have to be in the bathtub for about 15 minutes. If she can get herself ready by that time, it is convenient to me and she can then have her meal early. The bathing arrangement is this : she bathes in the space behind the bathtub and while she is bathing I keep my eyes tightly shut. I do not know the manner of her bathing — whether she bathes naked or with her underwear on. I can tell from the sound that she uses soap. I have seen no part of her body which everybody here will not have seen. What can be terrible is that she massages me while I am lying naked. So long as I have not become wholly free from passion I have to be very alert while I bear with that massage. In the hospital, an Englishwoman used to bathe me. She had to clean my private parts too. It never embarrassed me. For, I have a somewhat different conception of *brahmacharya.* It is not *brahmacharya* which cannot bear physical contact with women when it is called for. But this is a digression.

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[1] This was intended for, persons, mentioned at the end, each of whom was required to read it and pass it on to the next person on the list.

Now about the *sari.* When I was returning after seeing the patients, I had on only my short dhoti. I felt cold. Therefore I used Sushila's *sari.* I did the same thing on a rainy day. There was an umbrella too, but I did not use it. These things are natural with me and Sushila. Let no one complain against Sushila. She is grown up, but so far God has not made her experience passion. This is what she says and I take her at her word. I have been further convinced by many other instances of her behaviour. I know two other such girls. I have not come across a fourth in thousands.

Now anyone who wants to say anything about this matter should write to me frankly. But no one must discuss the matter among themselves.

This must be returned to me after the following persons have read it: Pyarelal, Sushila, Chimanlal, Shakaribehn, Sharada, Vasumati, Sushila Gandhi, Manu, Kanubhai, Bhansali, Munnalal, Krishnachandra, Sankaran, Chakraiya, Nanavati, Ba, Mirabehn, Rajkumari, Amtussalaam, Balwant Singh, Panerkar, Parnerkar's mother.

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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325. *LETTER TO JAWAHARLAL NEHRU*

MAGANWADI,
WARDHA,
September 14, 1938

MY DEAR JAWAHARBHAI,

Kripalani sent me the other day copy of your letter to him in which you said you want some more definite expression of opinion than this that "Bapu was happy" to read your letter. I was in a hurry. Bapu was in substantial agreement with all that you had said and indeed he felt that you had amplified certain points in a way he would never be able to do. Will this do as a definite opinion? The enclosed will help to confirm what I have said.

Yours affectionately,
MAHADEV

[PS.]

Bapu is as well as he can be with the overwhelming burden of work that he has to carry. I hope Indu is quite well now nnd that Sarupben is flourishing.

From a copy: Gandhi-Nehru Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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326. LETTER TO PYARELAL

September 14, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have already told you as well that Mother had placed the responsibility on me. I see therein her sincerity and efficiency. It also shows her faith in me. I must on my part shoulder the responsibility.

As a result, I have started wondering whether Sushila should be sacrificed for the sake of serving me. It is an agonizing thought. Parents, even should they be on death-bed, get work from paid servants rather than hinder the studies of their children. Should I do otherwise?

I am afraid you too have been intoxicated by the idea of serving me. Hence, you have been deceiving yourself with regard to Mother's state of mind. Mother has conveyed to me in clear terms that she wishes to see Sushila become a doctor. She must have a degree and also the financial benefit that the degree may bring. She tolerated a son becoming a fakir; she cannot the daughter too becoming a fakir. There is much weight in this argument. Moreover, Sushila's mind is oscillating between renunciation and pursuit of medical skill as the world sees it. You sowed the seed of renunciation in her. I watered it. In all this the only thing tying her to me is the personal service I take from her. Should I spoil her future by accepting her? I hold the view that it is in her interest to stay with me. It can hardly be that you agree with the view. Poor Mother is not even aware of it. Does Sushila's boundless love for me stifle her? What can I decide in such a difficult situation? Think about it if you can.

I shall keep you informed of whatever I write about Sushila.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

327. LETTER TO AVANTIKABAI GOKHALE

[September 16, 1938][1]

DEAR SISTER,

The gift from you two sisters comes unfailingly. I shall certainly wear it on my head. Why is Gokhaleji[2] ill?

Ramdas should be reaching there tomorrow. Nirmala studies at the Kanya Gurukul, Dehradun. I am aware of numerous attacks on me. I do not read them. The praises too are full of exaggerations. Then why not the attacks? Praise does not raise us. Condemnation does not take away anything from us. Then why should we be happy or miserable about it? We shall reap as we sow.

I gather from your other letters that you too were ill. Do not strain yourself beyond capacity.

[From Gujarati]

From the manuscript of Mahadev Desai's Diary. Courtesy : Narayan Desai

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328. LETTER TO PYARELAL

September 19, 1938

Read this with a calm mind when you have the leisure.

CHI. PYARELAL,

One day I had a talk with Mother and then this letter began to take shape. Last night I came to the conclusion that if I did not write to you, I should be deceiving you.

I decided to write this yesterday because of Mahadev's illness.

If you can, you should work whole-heartedly for *Harijan* and [other] papers. For this to be possible there is something that needs to be done. Mother said: "Marry Sharada to Pyarelal. She will agree if I persuade her. But you must take up this responsibility." My immediate reaction was that I do not have that much influence over you these days. Still, should I not convey to you what appears to me in the best interest of you, me and many others? I spoke to Sharada. She is of course willing. I suggested to her that in that case she should herself write to you. She said: "I do not know how to do it. You may write and I will sign. When I have placed myself in your hands, what is the difficulty?" Sharada does not seek to gratify any sensual desires. She is keen to serve. Seeing that you had suffered a terrible shock, Chimanlal thought of entrusting Sharada to you and, moved by a similar feeling, Sharada went along with the idea. Knowing you as I did, I dissuaded him. This of course you know. Now I am approaching you with a different motive altogether. Three or four different people were approached for Sharada. She was turned down because of her weak health. This quite shocked me. In such a state Mother's suggestion was quite a help. It is our duty to accept the hand of someone whom nobody accepts. What does it matter that Sharada is weak of health? I do not consider her weak. I see many qualities in her. She wants a teacher for husband, somebody who will educate her at home. Such a husband should make her overcome her desire to be a mother. If he does not do so she has the strength to remain calm.

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[1] From the contents, specially from the reference to Ramdas's arrival, presumably in Bombay; he reached there from South Africa on September 17, 1938; *vide* Vol. LXVII, pp. 342 and 347.

[2] Baban Gokhale, addressee's husband

You will not be betraying Yoga by accepting the hand of a girl like Sharada. I have already suggested that the Yoga of your imagination whom you have wedded remains what she is. Supposing that Yoga was named Sharada? But if that be not the case, you may not give Sharada a child. So long as you give her knowledge, you give her your love, she will be content. If you can understand this much, my task becomes easy. And the broken strings of your heart are made whole again. But if you are not convinced at heart, I would certainly not insist that you should abide by what I say.

Sushila told me that the assurance I gave you at the time of your fast, which I later withdrew, had not become inoperative. I have already written you to say that it no longer holds. If you wish you may pursue your fast under my supervision. So, this need not become a hindrance to your *Harijan* work.

My statement that you and I had different ideas of dharma represented a conclusion drawn from your letter. My sending blessings to Yoga on her engagement distressed you. I feel it was my duty to bless her. I was under the impression that you had also taken the same view. I am not convinced in my heart that Panditji[1] or Lakshmibehn[2] used coercion with Yoga. I did not simply follow the custom in sending my blessings.

I shall not write anything more now. By accepting Sharada's hand you will be bringing a cow home. It is just possible that she may turn out a *Kamadhenu* for all of us. I for one notice such qualities in Sharada. Do not refuse her hand.

I am not able to break my silence. You have risen from the death-bed. It is a sign from God. You will have truly risen when you come out unscathed from the burning forest in which you are caught and make your full contribution to the *yajna* of non-violence. My silence will easily end if you accept my suggestion. Right now, it is a refuge for one distressed.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

If you do not like my suggestion, feel free to ignore it. Do not make yourself unhappy.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

329. *LETTER TO PYARELAL*

September 26, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

I am quite perturbed by your letter. Of course, the perturbance is now gradually diminishing. My interpretation of your letter is that you want to say no but have no courage to say no. So you are planning to write a long letter. Why should I place such a burden on you? I certainly do not want to force you. Moreover, where is the question of coercion in such matters?

Hence I take your letter to mean that you are unable to agree to my proposal. Mother has expressed to me, in a few words, her distress. It is an unbearable thought that I should be instrumental in bringing about your ruin and now Sushila's ruin. It is comforting that whether happy or unhappy, Sushila remains engrossed in her studies and in the hospital work. Hence, if my impression is correct that you are unable to accept Sharada's hand, then it is also your view that my duty is to give up Sushila's services. Do not misunderstand me. I cannot think of anything else. My heart cries when I look at Sushila. How can I bear to see her life being ruined at my hands?

---

[1] Narayan Moreshwar Khare

[2] Wife of N. M. Khare

If your life can be rebuilt Sushila's life will be rebuilt too. In that case, am I not solely responsible for her? She too would want to live with us. Mother would be satisfied. But I see darkness all round if your life is not rebuilt. But what can you do about it? Nothing can be achieved by unnatural means. No good can come of it. You will understand the reason for my haste.

This would mean that Sushila should be free here. I should take possession of my own body. Till Mahadev is ready, you should look after my physical needs and his work in the Frontier [Province] and elsewhere. This much is not beyond your capacity. Once Mahadev is all right, whatever is to be done will be done. There is talk going on about Swami and Chandrashankar. In my view that is not at all right.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

330. LETTER TO PYARELAL

October 1, 1938

I do not see any good in taking away Sushila at the cost of incurring Mother's displeasure. It is another matter if Sushila just cannot live away from me. I have never intended to keep her here against her will. But is it not also a problem to decide what to do in her present state of health? It seems Mother desires that she should remain here at least for the present. Mohanlal also appears to have postponed his departure. Hence that is also a point to be considered. If he is destined to undertake the fast, it will be only under my protection.

I have written this bit by bit in the midst of a lot of work.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

331. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

DELHI,
October 4, 1938

CHI. MATHURADAS,

I hope the writing will not fade. I am lying with a mud-pack on my stomach, hence the pencil.

Your telegram has put me in a dilemma. For one thing, I do not favour marriage within the caste. Maganlal's family is setting to nought all his ideals.[1] Under these circumstances, I am unable to give my whole-hearted approval to the idea. How can I convey all this in a telegram? You will understand my reservations. The marriage must have been fixed. If possible, you must dissuade them also from asking for my approval. But, surely, it is not necessary to have my approval in every matter. You can show this letter to them. Taramati should not feel hurt.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Maganlal Gandhi's son, Keshavlal, had been betrothed to Bindumati, daughter of addresee's wife's sister.

332. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI[1]

UTMANZAI,
October 10, 1938

CHI. MATHURADAS,

I have your letter. I understand. In regard to the merits and demerits of the relationship what can one say? I only laid bare my heart before you. What I said was meant only for you. But I have never made a secret of my views. That is precisely why I wrote to you, that if you felt it necessary you could convey them to the family.

Some things of Europe are worth accepting. Their calendar is one of them. Our almanacs are not practical for use. Hence I try to introduce the European system wherever possible. Mahadev is well but he is mentally exhausted. Hence he needs complete rest. Rajkumari has taken him to Simla. I am doing well. We arrived at Utmanzai yesterday. The situation is difficult.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHETH MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI
MUNICIPAL COUNCILLOR
74 WALKESHWAR ROAD
BOMBAY

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] An extract from this letter appears in Vol. LXVII, p. 422.

333. *LETTER TO PYARELAL*

[After *October 13, 1938*][1]

CHI. PYARELAL,

What you have done is of course good. But you could do better. It would mean some effort. There were four participants in the discussion. If you put it into shape, leaving out the names of the participants and retaining only the questions discussed, something new will be created and it will be of great value. It will also be more compact. It does involve greater effort. But if you have digested everything well you can create a beautiful flower. If the mind has grasped the thing, it will not require too great an effort. It can go in the next issue. Do this if you have the courage. Let me know. I have gone through the first part.

BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

334. *LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR*

October 23, 1938

CHI. LILA,

I have your letter. You will feel uneasy at Segaon in my absence. It would be better if you waited till I returned. Is there not enough work of service in Rajkot? What about the struggle there? Let me have your experiences.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The letter is written on the back of H. S. L. Polak's letter to Gandhiji dated October 13, 1938.

335. TELEGRAM TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

DERA ISMAIL KHAN,
October 31, 1938

MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI
74 WALKESHWAR ROAD
BOMBAY HIGH

MEET AGATHA HARRISON ARRIVING SECOND OR THIRD. GIVE HER MY LOVE. TELL HER FINISH BOMBAY. AWAIT MY RETURN WARDHA ABOUT TWELFTH.

BAPU

From the original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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336. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

[*October 1938*][1]

CHI. LILA,

I hope you are bringing credit to me and yourself there. Give no thought to my experiment. I have started the experiment to be able to render greater service to womankind. That includes you. In a note written in jest and a little anger, I called you 'Lila'. You liked it. Your father used to call you 'Lili', and so you demanded that I should also call you 'Lili'. For, you had started showing me the same affection as you did for your father. That alone would make your love for me greater than that for your father. If you cannot understand this, ask Mahadev. Replying to one of his letters, I had told him that I would call you 'Lili' when I had qualified myself to do that. This experiment is also to gain that eligibility because you are also a woman. While being there, think that you are with me not because you have gone there to do your work, but because I have sent you there to do my work. And my work means that you should relieve Mahadev's burden as much as possible. Hence, do not waste Mahadev's time talking about your happiness or unhappiness. Your duty is to go on doing unquestioningly whatever work Mahadev or Durga may entrust to you or what you can carry out yourself. And you will do your work silently because I cannot give you here what you would be able to learn there. It is true that you cannot gain there what you can gain here. But since I have sent you there to do my work, you will easily get the benefit of having stayed with me.

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[1] From the contents; *vide* Vol. LXVIII, pp. 16, 19 and 38.

Eat well and build up your body. If you do that you can occasionally come here for a brief visit. But do not keep waiting for opportunities to come here. Devote yourself to putting things in perfect order there. You have got to give time to Bablo. Do write to me whenever you wish. And whenever you write, try to make your handwriting beautiful. Do not write with a pencil. And do not follow Mahadev's example of writing with a fountain-pen. I tolerate Mahadev's fountain-pen because Mahadev is a scribe. You are not a scribe and are not going to be one. So, I shall not, and I should not tolerate the fountain-pen in your case.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : C. W. 11289. Courtesy : Lilavati Asar

337. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

PESHAWAR,
November 5, 1938

CHI. MATHURADAS,

I can find nothing wrong in your letter. I am convinced that the Congress is on the decline. Falsehood, violence, intrigue and selfishness are growing. The present seems to be the time when those who are devoted to the twin doctrines of truth and non-violence should serve the Congress from outside. I am writing frankly that if there is no improvement, the Congress will lose even my moral support and I will stop guiding it. But I will not use coercion. God Himself will make my way clear.

You must express your views firmly and if you want to come out you should do so. You must continue in the municipality only if you can control it naturally. But do not ruin yourself. There are countless activities for a pure-hearted person like you. Rather than involve yourself in dirty things I would prefer that you lived a private life and earned a living by honest means. Whenever you feel convinced about your duty to leave, do so. The future is in the hands of God.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

You must have done the needful about Agatha Harrison.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

338. LETTER TO PYARELAL

[After *November 9, 1938*][1]

CHI. PYARELAL,

I had given you two items to be condensed for *Harijan*. I shall do the condensing myself if you pass them on to me. I can see that you are overburdened.

BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

339. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

SEGAON,
November 14, 1938

CHI. MATHURADAS,

I should be happy if both the scripts were made compulsory. There is no question of you or anyone else coming to replace Mahadev. In a way, those who do their duty in their respective positions are also helping.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHETH MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI
74 WALKESHWAR ROAD
BOMBAY

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] This letter is on the reverse side of another dated November 9, 1938.

340. LETTER TO PYARELAL

November 14, 1938

CHI. PYARELAL,

I expect regularity from you. Being regular about food will not interfere with work. In the same way, you should have attended to your leg. When you do not do things properly, Ba, Sushila and I do certainly get upset. About *Harijan*, etc., do whatever you can.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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341. LETTER TO PADMAJA NAIDU

SEGAON, WARDHA,
November 16, 1938

MY DEAR LOTUS-BORN,

So 17th Nov. is your birthday! Many happy returns. But for us these returns can never be happy unless they provide us with fresh scope for service. And you are going to Hyderabad specially to render service. You will write to me of your doings. You are under promise not to overstrain yourself.

Love.

Yours,
PLAYMATE

SHRI PADMAJA NAIDU
ZAHEER MANZIL
RED HILL
HYDERABAD DECCAN

From the original : Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

342. LETTER TO PADMAJA NAIDU

SEGAON, WARDHA,
November 20, 1938

MY DEAR LOTUS-BORN,

No letter from you. I hope no news is good news both about your health and your mission. You are not to wear yourself out on the mission work. I shall never excuse myself if you damage your health by overwork.

Love.

PLAYMATE

SHRI PADMAJA NAIDU
ZAHEER MANZIL
RED HILL
HYDERABAD
DECCAN

From the original : Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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343. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

November 20, 1938

CHI. MATHURADAS,

Send Rs. 251/- to Thakkar Bapa for the Harijan Sevak Sangh. His address : Harijan Nivas, Kingsway, Delhi.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI
74 WALKESHWAR ROAD
BOMBAY

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

344. LETTER TO HANNA LAZAR

November 26, 1938

MY DEAR HANNA,

I had your letter from Kimberley but not the letter you want to write.

You must not only keep well but be robust.

I am not writing to your mother or young Isele.

But my love to all of you.

BAPU

From the original : Gandhi-Kallenbach Correspondence. Courtesy : National Archives of India

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345. LETTER TO SAROJINI NAIDU

SEGAON, WARDHA,
November 26, 1938

MY DEAR FLY,

Who is most distinguished daughter of Bengal and equally distinguished daughter-in-law of Andhra.

Though you are so distinguished, you are still a fly, thank God.

I have already written to Padmaja without in any way mentioning you for the journey. You are past praying for. Much love till we meet on or about 8th Dec.

Yours,
LITTLE SPINNER,
SPIDER, ETC.

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

346. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

SEGAON,
November 28, 1938

CHI. MATHURADAS,

The idea for my article came from your letter. There were other letters but I did not write anything. Now see the enclosed reply. If you have any comments to make, do so. Otherwise return it to me as it is. If the corruption does not go I must retire. I am of course carrying on talks.

Read the enclosed letter and do the needful. I take it that you will be receiving Muriel Lester. How can she stay with the Naoroji sisters at this time? You may put her up at Bhulabhai's place if you like. Let her leave for Wardha the same day. Somebody will receive her at the station on the 9th. There will be no time for you to send a telegram. There may not even be sufficient time to catch the train. If you cannot personally go or send someone to receive her then drop her a letter as desired by her. Do you have time to attend to such things? Do warn me if you do not have the time. In that case I shall not burden you.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Is there an equivalent term for 'Municipal Councillor' in Gujarati?

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

347. LETTER TO MUNNALAL G. SHAH

[November 1938][1]

CHI. MUNNALAL,

I have heard that Govind is taking up a job in a Christian mission. The mission intends to plant its flag in Segaon or has already done so. Find out the facts without making too much fuss.

BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati : G. N. 8378

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348. LETTER TO CHIMANLAL N. SHAH

[November/December 1938][2]

CHI. CHIMANLAL,

How are things there? Is everybody well? What about the cows? How much milk is left? How is Bhansali? Is Parnerkar happy? Does Shakaribehn feel lonely? Here the cold is not much to speak of. Sharada is fine.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a copy of the Gujarati : G. N. 10663

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[1] From the contents; *vide* Vol. LXVIII, pp. 150-51.

[2] From the contents; *ibid.*, pp. 86 and 182-3.

349. *LETTER TO PADMAJA NAIDU*

SEGAON, WARDHA,
December 2, 1938

MY DEAR LOTUS-BORN,

Your letter is clear. I knew your worth when you sent me that masterly report of yours on the famine condition. This one can't be compared with that. But it is good. The other was for the public. This is hurriedly drawn for me. You are doing good work. My condition is do not kill yourself over it. If you will only behave yourself, you are capable of giving first-class work. You will take extra care to be accurate about your facts. I shall bear your caution in mind. There won't be a hasty word on my part. Continue to write rugularly.

Hope you got my second letter.

Love.

PLAYMATE

[PS.]

Shall send for you when it is absolutely necessary. How is Father and the other members?

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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350. *NOTE TO JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM*

SEGAON,
[*December 5, 1938*][1]

People may not accept my statement. But I do claim that I take ample rest and regulate my life. The blood-pressure was not due to overwork. I have not got the mental poise prescribed by the *Gita*. A certain class of events generally considered trivial upsets me as nothing else can. There was just such an event. People may laugh at it but for me it was no laughing matter.

From the original: C. W. 11044. Courtesy : Arjun Jairamdas

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[1] As noted down by the addressee himself

351. TELEGRAM TO PADMAJA NAIDU

WARDHA,
December 6, 1938

PADMAJA NAIDU
ZHEER MANZIL
RED HILL
HYDERABAD DN.

HOPE YOU FATHER DOING WELL. LOVE.

BAPU

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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352. LETTER TO PADMAJA NAIDU

SEGAON, WARDHA,[1]
December 6, 1938

MY DEAR SLAVE,

I am sorry to hear about Father's and your illness. I sent you a wire which I hope you received.[2] I am yearning for good news from you. Having undertaken the great mission, you must keep yourself fit.

What a brave letter you have written. It is quite worthy of you. May your mission be crowned with success!

I knew it is a difficult task. But nothing is difficult for God. If He wills it, you will pull through with credit.

Love.

SLAVE-DRIVER

SHRI PADMAJA NAIDU
ZAHEER MANZIL
RED HILL
HYDERABAD DECCAN

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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[1] This is in Hindi.

[2] *Vide* the preceding item.

353. LETTER TO PADMAJA NAIDU

SEGAON, WARDHA,
December 12, 1938

MY DEAR L. B.,

Your letter and the files just to hand.

You must go slow. If you are a true and willing slave, you have to listen to the slave-driver. And so you will go with Lilamani[1] to Delhi, have the bracing air there, be strong and then come to me for a little work and much play.

Tell Lilamani that love always finds and even makes time. How are she and Surya faring? What about the latter's big scheme?

Love.

PLAYMATE

SHRI PADMAJA NAIDU
ZAHEER MANZIL
RED HILL
HYDERABAD DECCAN

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

354. A NOTE

[Before *December 13, 1938*][2]

In my view, we should not interfere with whatever the Princes are doing. But why should not all the obnoxious portions of the Criminal Law Amendment Act be removed? Let only the absolute minimum be retained.

X X X

Such a protest should be considered thoughtless. We want to do away with all that is bad in the [Criminal Law

---

[1] Addressee's sister

[2] The note has been placed in the source among items of 1938. It appears from the contents that it was written before the Working Committee's resolution on Indian States drafted by Gandhiji on December 13, 1938; *vide* Vol. LXVIII, pp. 212-13.

Amendment] Act. But why should we give up what is good in it? The Working Committee should have the courage to lend its support to this much. We must see the spirit [of the Law]. Why should we see only the letter of it? I have been purposely silent because I could not have written fully in favour of the Princes. I would be willing to write in their favour if they are agreeable to my suggestions. Even there the condition would be that after reading the Act, you approve of my suggestions. I do not know for certain that the [present] use of the sections is necessary. If it is necessary, I would certainly say so.

From the Hindi original: Rajendra Prasad Papers. Courtesy: National Archives of India

355. *LETTER TO TARADEVI NAYYAR*

SEGAON, WARDHA,
December 22, 1938

DEAR SISTER,

At least you have written a letter today. I am sending this through Ba. On receiving the letter from Prakash, for a moment Sushila was inclined to go there. But I did not approve of her going for just a few days. Right now, Sushila is serving me. She is also helping me with the letters, etc. This she has been doing for the last two or three days. I do not like to send her away all of a sudden. It is another matter if you want to call away Sushila for good. In that case I have no authority to hold her. I keep Sushila with me because I trust your words. I have no doubt a selfish purpose in keeping her. But I am also convinced that staying with me is good for Sushila from every point of view. I also consider it necessary that Sushila should be near Pyarelal. Sushila will not be at peace staying in Delhi or away from me. Think of all this and write to me frankly. Come to Bardoli if you can. I shall feel happy if you do.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

356. *LETTER TO ABRAHAM PAUL*

Segaon, Wardha,
December 28, 1938

DEAR FRIEND,

I thank you for your long letter.[1] I do not need to give you a detailed reply and I have not the time if I wish to. Now that the allegations are withdrawn any controversy about them can only be theoretical. If responsible government comes quickly, maladministration goes or should go. If it does not come quickly maladministration should be dealt with separately and probably civil disobedience will be wholly unnecessary for removing the grievance.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. Gandhi

From a photostat: C. W. 10975. Courtesy: Dr. Abraham Paul

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357. *NOTE TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

[*December 1938*][2]

I have already said that you should stick to the timings that have been fixed. This is meaningless pity. The better thing would be for you to regard Segaon as the hospital and go there at a fixed hour. You will have to work for one hour here and one hour there. Everything will go on well once the people get used to it. Hence fix your time either in the evening or morning. Then we shall see. Of course, one point to consider while deciding about the village is that we are not permanent residents here. Being temporary, it does not seem proper to go for 15 days and then stop.

---

[1] The addressee in his letter to Gandhiji, explaining the substance and nature of the allegations contained in the memorandum submitted by the Travancore State Congress against the Dewan, C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer, had written : "You have said in one of your earlier statements that these allegations should find a place in a memorial to remove the Dewan and not in a memorial for responsible government, and in another statement you said that the remedy for maladministration if the allegations are true lies in responsible government." *Vide* also Vol. LXVIII, pp. 216-17 and 241.

[2] As placed in the source

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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358. *NOTE TO PYARELAL*

Sunday (*at night*) [*1938*][1]

CHI. PYARELAL,

Herewith a list in pursuance of the talk we had earlier in the evening. You can start taking from tomorrow whatever you chose from it. Experience will suggest any changes necessary.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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359. *NOTE TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

[*1938*]

CHI. SUSHILA,

Write to Mahodaya[2]. After the spinning sit down with the teacher who came in the morning and will be coming again. I had quite forgotten. I hope you had not forgotten.

BAPU

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] This and the following eleven items have been placed in the source in 1938.

[2] Dr. Mahodaya

360. NOTE TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

[1938]

Why are you tormenting me? Crying is forbidden and you have accepted it yourself. You do not even know the full details. I wish you would calmly try to find out the cause of my present pain. I wanted to sleep, but what can I do when I cannot sleep? I even walked for about half an hour. I have never given up *Ramanama*. What is there to cry over? Be sensible.

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

361. NOTE TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

[1938]

If I say that I did not get any sleep last night, you may attribute it to my sinfulness. Today's blood-pressure is also due to the same thing. Till one o'clock I alternated between sleep and wakefulness. At the moment no worry torments me nor am I troubled by anything external. Partly I understand what has happened and partly I do not understand. I am not worried. But I must tell you people about the turmoil through which I am passing.

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

362. NOTE TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

[*1938*]

Something must be done about Mathew. Advise him to leave the place.

You have not been looking after Anand. You must spend a minute or two with him every day. Note down how much urine he passes, what his weight is, and so on.

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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363. INSCRIPTION IN AUTOGRAPH-BOOK[1]

[*1938*]

This is a rich man's toy. Let the poor not imitate the bad habits of the rich.

From the Hindi oiginal: C. W. 10991. Courtesy : Erkula Kumarila Swamy

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364. NOTE TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

[*1938*]

You have to bring one more tin of prunes from Nagpur. If Pyarelal considers it necessary to stay on for one more day, he may do so.

---

[1] Written for Erkula Kumarila Swamy, who was studying at the Ashram as a teenager. Swamy had borrowed 12 annas to buy an autograph-book and Gandhiji came to know about it.

Leave to me the question how L. and A. S.[1] are to sleep. But if you have no interest, if you have no confidence in yourself, you may withdraw. This experiment has become important to me. But I can carry out the experiment only if I have your full co-operation. You will certainly discuss it with Pyarelal. You may also discuss it with Mahadev. I do need Pyarelal's full co-operation and understanding.

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

---

365. *NOTE TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

[*1938*]

If something is written down wrongly, must one read it wrong? Today at least we must give proper thought to the matter and assign a suitable description to the chapter. There is surely a mistake about it because it is Ch. V that is described as the *Sanyasayoga* and there cannot be two chapters bearing the same description.[2]

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

---

[1] Amtussalaam

[2] The reference obviously, is to Ch. IV of the *Bhagavad Gita* which is called the *Jnana-Karma-Sanyasayoga*, Ch. V being described as the *Karma-Sanyasayoga*.

366. *NOTE TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

[*1938*]

All this is pervaded by the Lord.[1] God fills everything. Hence, everything is yours if you will use things in a spirit of renunciation. Nothing is yours if you want to use things solely for yourself.

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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367. *NOTE TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

[*1938*]

Where did you get wet? Even the blessing of someone with a disordered mind is terrible. When will your disorderliness go? To leave one's meal and go away is an insult to ***Annadevata***. You could have asked me if it was to be fetched immediately or after the meal. I shall have to be more strict now. I shall eat only when you are ready. And once you sit down to eat you shall get up only after finishing the meal. I eat early for the convenience of both of us. You can get ready to eat with me. You must plan your life with some thought. If you do that, you can have more time at your disposal; you can perform your duty better and you can acquire more experience and knowledge.

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The line quoted here from *Ishopanishad*, 1, in Sanskrit reads: ईशावास्यामिदं सर्वं तेन त्यक्तेन भुंजीथा

368. NOTE TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

[*1938*]

You make Pyarelal's bed but when does he ever sleep? He was awake till one o'clock. What is the condition of the latrines here? Why do you not have earth kept there? That is not right. There are so many . . .[1] There is not enough care shown and not enough effort. I am too busy in my own work, otherwise I would take care of all the latrines and clean them myself or have them cleaned. I would say you might do something even now.

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

369. NOTE TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

[*1938*]

That you would go to the toilet only when I did is also part of your disorderliness, is it not? There is no peace of mind, no stability. Doing things haphazardly. Going to the toilet, eating, sleeping — everything, only if you have the time. The rest is all duty, is it?

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The rest of this sentence and the one following are not clear.

370. TELEGRAM TO SUPERINTENDENT, TELEGRAPH OFFICE, MADRAS

January 3, 1939

SUPERINTENDENT
TELEGRAPH OFFICE
MADRAS

IF CABLE RECEIVED FOR SOGA TO REPEAT DREISLER METHODIST MISSIONARY HOME 22 CLUB BACK ROAD BYCULLA BOMBAY.

GANDHI

From a photostat : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

---

371. LETTER TO SRI PRAKASA

BARDOLI,
January 12, 1939

BHAI SRI PRAKASA,

Why an invitation to tea on the occasion of your father's completing 70 years? I was very pained to receive your letter. What is the relation between tea and snacks and your father's religious life? I find the two very contradictory.

For me this auspicious day is meant for religious activity and thanksgiving. And whatever is to be done, why should it be from your side? Is there no public life in Kashi? Would not the public do anything?

In spirit I shall be there.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: C. W. 11162. Courtesy: Sri Krishna Nath

372. LETTER TO JOHN HAYNES HOLMES[1]

Bardoli,
January 18, 1939

DEAR FRIEND,

I thank you for your letter and the newspaper cutting. The heading is a misrepresentation of the purpose of my article.[2] This is clear even from the cabled summary. But when you read the original you will discover what a cruel misrepresentation it is.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

MINISTER
JOHN HAYNES HOLMES
NEW YORK CITY

From a photostat: C. W. 11074. Courtesy: Roger W. Holmes and Francis L. Brown

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373. A NOTE

[After *January 20, 1939*][3]

It is not easy to take away the girl [after the wedding]. After coming here they will have to fast, perform *yajna*, etc. Do not, therefore, keep them there. Send them away directly, if they stay on after the ceremony. Let them spend a night or two at Wardha and give them *kheer* to eat.

From a photostat of the Gujarati: C. W. 10988. Courtesy: Ramakrishna Bajaj

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[1] 1879-1964; American clergyman; founder-member of American Civil Liberties Union and the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People; editor of *Unity*; author of *My Gandhi* and books on religion and social subjects

[2] The reference, it appears, is to the article "The Jews", dated November 20, 1938 and the criticism it generated in Germany; *vide* Vol. LXVIII, pp. 137-41, 189-90 and 191-3.

[3] The note is written on the back of a letter from Bombay dated January 20, 1939.

374. *LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI*

BARDOLI,
January 21, 1939

CHI. MATHURADAS,

On second thoughts I feel that you should give the enclosed letter to Jairamdas to read. Then let me know what he thinks. I am quite worried about him. He is very shy. So he will not ask for help. His letter is enclosed. You will understand his situation from it. There is no question at all of taking his time. It will be good if Jivaraj, Bharucha, etc., also go.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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375. *LETTER TO JAMES A. H. MILLS*

MAGANWADI,
WARDHA (C. P.),
BARDOLI,
January 26, 1939

DEAR MILLS,

Gandhiji has your letter of 18th inst.

Since you disown all responsibility for what appeared in the Press there is nothing more to be said about it, though he is still unable to understand how such a wholesale misrepresentation of what you reported could take place. He is sorry he has not got that cutting with him to send to you but surely, you will be able to procure it for yourself and have a look at it. Anyway, Gandhiji desires me to say that if he is pure he will outlive all propaganda that ignorance or malice may set on foot against him.

Yours sincerely,
PYARELAL

JAMES A. H. MILLS, ESQ.
ASSOCIATED PRESS OF AMERICA
DJIBUTI

From a copy: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

376. LETTER TO MAHADEV DESAI

SEGAON,
February 2, 1939

CHI. MAHADEV,

I am writing this letter from Madalasa's place. I have come here directly from the station. I rested a lot during the journey. Lilavati cried constantly. All her frailties are now becoming apparent.

I have received your letter. You are definitely coming to Segaon if you do not feel well there. You have gone there because of the letter that came. It is well that you have gone. But you are certainly coming when the occasion arises. Work has already piled up.

I shall look after the rest and write later.

You should not worry about me at all. Tell this to Ghanshyamdas also. I am definitely going to have rest.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

377. LETTER TO MAHADEV DESAI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
February 2, 1939

CHI. MAHADEV,

I have your wire. How is it you have gone there? I take it to mean that from there you will be going to Delhi. You will have received my reply.

I spoke to him today. He says that there is some misunderstanding. I shall not discuss the matter further. We shall meet if there is time.

I have initiated the changes. Nobody will sleep beside me. I shall have enough distance for my hand not to reach anyone sleeping there. I am giving up taking personal service involving touch.[1] Lilavati decided this morning to go either to Nadiad or Wardha. This evening she said that for about six months she would study only here. So that is how it is.

You will be getting on well. My swelling has considerably subsided. Walking is discontinued. I sleep a lot. Do not worry. I am observing silence. It gets disturbed of course.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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378. LETTER TO VALLABHBHAI PATEL

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
February 3, 1939

MY DEAR VALLABHBHAI,

Whatever changes I am making are dictated by your abundant love. I am doing it against my own inclination. This is to tell you that as from today I have been compelled to stop taking service from girls. Lilavati, A. S., etc., have certainly not liked it. Sharada and Vijaya have not liked it either. The last two are sensible and so they are not feeling sad. Prabhavati came yesterday. She may be doing something or the other but even she is looking on in silence. Sushila is continuing to serve me. She has not the heart to stop doing it while I am ill. But I feel that I should stop it when I get well. As from yesterday I have stopped sleeping close to them. That is, the girls sleep far enough to be out of reach of my arms. Sushila hardly slept near me. Now no girl or man sleeps close to me. Sushila spreads her bed perpendicularly at my head. So does Rajkumari near my feet. I am not at all sorry about these changes. Maybe I am unhappy on account of the girls. I say 'maybe' because that is not the impression I get. It is my way to abandon things for the sake of my colleagues. I like to make such sacrifices, because thereby I can know myself better. I know that you have made your suggestion in order to protect me. You have of course considered the interests of the girls

---

[1] *Vide* the following item; also Vol. LXVIII, pp. 196-7.

It remains to be seen if their interest will be served by this sacrifice. Lilavati is lying utterly exhausted right now. She is planning to study. I am encouraging her.

If you send this letter to Mahadev, Devdas will also see it.

I have replied to the Viceroy's statement.[1] It is a harsh reply but there was no other alternative. It seems it is going to be a terrible battle. It cannot be predicted how far it will take us. It has to be seen how long my body can take the strain. The swelling is of course reduced. There is silence most of the time. Ba will have left.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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379. *LETTER TO MAHADEV DESAI*

SEGAON, WARDHA,
February 5, 1939

CHI. MAHADEV,

There is no letter from you today. Acting on your telegram, I have sent a telegram to J.[2] that he should follow your advice. But he does not seem to like the advice. Let him enter the field then. I consider the Viceroy's statement pretty bad. You will have seen my reply. Things will take their own course. Do not worry. You must regain your health.

Both Vijaya and Sharada will be married here at 3 o'clock (by my watch) on the 7th.[3] Nanabhai[4] will conduct the ceremony. Nanabhai will be coming here tomorrow with Manubhai. Gordhandas will arrive on the 7th morning. No guests have been invited. We do not want to invite any. The poor people of Segaon will witness the wedding. The altar will be built under a mango tree.

---

[1] For Gandhiji's statement regarding the struggle in Rajkot and the breach by the ruler of the covenant entered into with his people; *vide* Vol. LXVIII, pp. 365-7.

[2] Jamnalal Bajaj, *ibid.*, p. 378.

[3] Vijaya Patel had been betrothed to Manubhai Pancholi and Sharada Shah to Gordhandas Chokhawala.

[4] Nrisinhaprasad Kalidas Bhatt

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

380. LETTER TO MAHADEV DESAI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
February 7, 1939

CHI. MAHADEV,

I have your letter as also the wire. If you are not allowed to have the needed rest there, rush down here. You will definitely get rest here. There is at least some peace of mind. The changes I introduced have not been received well. But the student of the *Gita* must find peace of mind wherever he goes.

I am getting along. I am trying to reduce as much as possible the burden on Vallabhbhai. But he has a worrying temperament. Let us see what happens. *The Statesman* cannot write anything else.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Now it is almost time to go to the marriage *mandap*.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

381. LETTER TO MAHADEV DESAI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
February 8, 1939

CHI. MAHADEV,

I have your letter. Let me compliment you on keeping good health.

Your dialogue is good. Your suggestion is correct. I am sending the telegram. I may issue my statement tomorrow. I shall not write anything more because there is a lot to do.

I have got the point about Hameed Ali. Subhas wants to meet me. I am not keen. He is getting good publicity.

Lilavati seems to be at ease today.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

382. LETTER TO MAHADEV DESAI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
February 9, 1939

CHI. MAHADEV,

I hope you have the wire I sent yesterday. It was meant especially to be shown to Laithwaite[1]. Of course, it could be interpreted as you suggest. So it may be as well if you have not shown it to him. Besides, since Devdas has brought out the facts in the Press, there is no need for that.

I do not think it right to send for Jamnalal. It is better to let him do as he wishes. If there is coercion then Jamnalalji should certainly protest. I am not very clear about the matter but I approve of Jamnalalji's opposition. What else could he do? When there is one against many he can only protest in this way. I have done it. I remember how, when the driver of the coach had tried to put me down. I had held on to the perch. I had received many blows. Had not the other passengers felt ashamed and checked the driver I would have lost my grip and my life too. I still do not consider this act of mine as having been violent. Jamnalalji has acted similarly. I have sent him a wire that he should act as he thinks right.

---

[1] Sir J. G. Laithwaite, Private Secretary to the Viceroy

You will have seen my statement.[1] Agatha is sitting beside me. She brings news from Orissa. Nothing unusual. She is indeed working hard.

Jawahar's letter has come, he is neutral.

I understand what you write about Maulana. I do not think it proper to say anything at the moment, even if falsehood goes round. Subhas wants to come here. If he does, we shall see.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

383. LETTER TO MAHADEV DESAI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
February 10, 1939

CHI. MAHADEV,

You will be keeping good health. Today's letter from Mirabehn will greatly delight you. I am enclosing it. Send it back to me. I keep receiving Ba's letters.

I am getting on quite well. There is still a little swelling.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] *Vide* Vol. LXVIII, pp. 400-402.

384. LETTER TO MAHADEV DESAI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
February 11, 1939

CHI. MAHADEV,

I have your letter. Quite a few of us have gathered in the room: Gilder[1], Jivaraj[2], Agatha[3], . . .[4], Pattabhi[5], Kishorelal[6], Frydman[7], etc. Others are sitting outside. The doctors have warned me that I should take care of my health.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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385. LETTER TO MAHADEV DESAI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
February 12, 1939

CHI. MAHADEV,

There should be no mistakes of proportion in such experiments. You will have been on the right track by now. There is no cause for worry if you have to cut down on walking. Why worry if you are able to sleep well and work?

I shall see about sending the money to Anand. I am enclosing a copy of my letter to the Viceroy.[8]

Subhas will come on the 15th. You will have seen the newspaper reports about Ba.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

---

[1] Dr. M. D. D. Gilder

[2] Dr. Jivaraj Mehta

[3] Agatha Harrison

[4] The name is not decipherable.

[5] Pattabhi Sitaramayya

[6] Kishorelal Mashruwala

[7] Maurice Frydman, a Polish engineer, who had become Gandhiji's follower and come to be known as Bharatanand

[8] *Vide* Vol. LXVIII, pp. 408-9.

386. LETTER TO MAHADEV DESAI

February 14, 1939

CHI. MAHADEV,

I have your letter. The President is coming today. On the 16th Swarup[1] and Appa[2] (Aundh) are also coming. Kallenbach is on death-bed. I am just watching God's greatness. Chesterman[3] arrived yesterday. He is an efficient doctor. Now he has started on his routine. For the sake of Kallenbach he has postponed his departure. Otherwise we had decided to call a specialist from Bombay.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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387. LETTER TO PADMAJA NAIDU

SEGAON, WARDHA,
February 21, 1939

MY DEAR PLAYMATE,

I hope you are making substantial progress. Await me in Delhi. I have to be there for the Hindu Temple on 18th March.[4]

Love.

SLAVE-DRIVER

SHRI PADMAJA NAIDU
20 CURZON ROAD
NEW DELHI

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

---

[1] Vijayalakshmi Pandit

[2] Appasaheb Pant

[3] Dr. Chesterman was the medical secretary of the English Baptist Mission and had come to India to attend the International Missionary Conference at Tambaram and to visit various mission hospitals.

[4] Gandhiji had been invited to perform the opening ceremony of the Lakshmi Narayan Temple and the Buddha Vihar; *vide* also Vol. LXIX, p. 68.

388. LETTER TO SARAT CHANDRA BOSE

New Delhi,
March 23, 1939

MY DEAR SARAT,

Your letter[1] makes me sad. I have shown it to the Sardar and Kripalani and asked them to give me their reaction. I am on the train taking me to the Maulana who wants me and who is too disabled to come to Delhi. I am going to show it to him and Jawaharlal also and ask them to let me have their reaction.[2] You shall have their statements.

With so much that you have to say against your erstwhile colleagues and they against you both, how can I act, what can I do? Do you know that I have no official notice of the resolution? I have not even seen the full text. But even if I had official notice, what could I do so long as the terrible mutual distrust lasted?

I therefore suggest either a meeting of all of you so that you can pour out your hearts to one another and come to an understanding or, if the poison has gone too deep to be eradicated, I suggest Subhas's (when he is restored to health) telling the A. I. C. C. that he cannot work with the old Working Committee and that he should be relieved of the command or be left a free hand to choose his own cabinet.

In any event I think an early meeting of the A. I. C. C. should be called to consider the situation. I feel too that something should be done for the interim administration. What that something should be, I do not know.

You say I had said to Subhas that I would advise the Sardar and others not to obstruct Subhas. I did say so to Sardar. The Sardar when he read your letter flatly denied that there was any obstruction on the part of old colleagues. On the contrary, he says there was every attempt made to smooth Subhas's way. I am sorry you are also ailing. I hope you will rest and be soon your old self again.

---

[1] Presumably of March 21, 1939, complaining against "some of the ex-members of the Working Committee" who, he alleged had carried "malicious" propaganda against Subhas Chandra Bose at the Tripuri Congress; *vide Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru*, Vol. 9, p. 527, *fn*. 2.

[2] For Jawaharlal Nehru's reactions, *op. cit.*, pp. 527-32.

I have assumed that your letter represents Subhas'r sentiments also.[1]

Love.

BAPU

Status, June 30, 1985

---

389. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

March 31, 1939

CHI. LILA,

I got your letter after a long wait. I expect your letter every day, but I am thankful for it whenever it comes. It is to your good that you have not come. Study a lot. Continue spinning. It seems you are pestered by scorpions. What remedy have you tried? My plans are all in suspense. It does not appear that I shall be going to the Frontier right now. Come for the Gandhi Seva Sangh.[2] We shall at least meet there.

It will be good if your brother can be convinced. I am closing now as I have some visitors.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] *Vide* also Vol. LXIX, p. 80.

[2] The fifth session of the Sangh was to be held at Brindaban (Bihar) from May 3 to 7, 1939.

390. LETTER TO MAHADEV DESAI

April 16, 1939

CHI. MAHADEV,

I have your letter. I learnt a great deal from my talk with Laithwaite. It is a difficult matter. I do not remember ever having gone through anything like what I am now experiencing. I am in the midst of a forest fire. I am being tested. It is good that Sardar is with me. I cannot say where I stand now and where I shall end up. The article in the *Statesman* has had a tremendous effect. You are going to join me in Calcutta. Why don't Durga and Bablo go to Simla? Will they come to Brindaban?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

391. NOTE TO PYARELAL

[*April 1939*][1]

Do not worry about it. That letter is there of course; but that does not mean that we need not consider all the attendant circumstances. What was the fate of Thakore Saheb's[2] letter? Virawala[3] presented a voluminous case. We can present one even more voluminous if we want. Is there any doubt about it?

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The note is placed in the source among items of April 1939.
[2] Thakore Saheb Dharmendrasinh of Rajkot
[3] Durbar Virawala, Dewan of Rajkot State

392. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

ON THE TRAIN,
May 6, 1939

CHI. MATHURADAS,

I have received your two letters. Who told you about the cabinet? I have not even heard the mention of Pu.'s[1] name in that connection. When the thing itself is not there, why talk about it? I have not understood the purport of the second letter. I do not even know what Pu. has done. Can you not have such things cleared up with V.[2]? He will be knowing everything. You should understand that in public life and in democratic functioning everyone has the experiences that you have had. We must be made of sterner stuff.

I gather from Mahadev that you are not keeping good health. It seems you are also having blood-pressure. In that case, you must take rest. What has happened to Taramati?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

393. LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

RAJKOT,
May 13, 1939

DEAR DR. GOPICHAND,

Please fix up with T. Bapa about the donation referred to by you.

Yours,
BAPU

DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA, M. L. A.
LAHORE

From the original: Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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[1] Presumably Purushottamdas Tandon
[2] Vallabhbhai Patel

394. LETTER TO AMBALAL SARABHAI

RAJKOT,
May 14, 1939

DEAR BROTHER,

I have your letter. I have known Juthabhai for many years. He is industrious. He is honest. If you want him to handle large amounts, I would suggest that you start entrusting him with responsibility little by little. I have no idea about his ability to handle large amounts.

I fully endorse Juthabhai's charitable activities. But I do not personally collect money for all my colleagues. In many cases, I give them the responsibility of collecting money. This has brought good results. They get the training. They gain respect independently, and my burden of raising funds becomes lighter.

Saralabehn met me in Bombay.

Blessings from
MOHANDAS

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11127. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

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395. A NOTE

May 15, 1939

This is a foolish letter. You will rid yourself of this foolishness if you do some work. It is improper to stay on here. It is uncivilized to hang around at other people's homes. Please go away.

M. K. GANDHI

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

396. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI[1]

SEGAON, WARDHA,
June 15, 1939

CHI. MATHURADAS,

I am sending Captain Gokhale's lectures in a separate cover. You have to think about only one point in those lectures. You need not read them if you do not want to. He says that schools should be run only from 7.00 a.m to 11.30 a m., so that the health of the pupils is not harmed by the sun. Is this possible in Bombay? If the health of the students demands it it should be made possible.

How many Parsis are likely to be affected by the new levy? How far is it a valid argument that it will adversely affect the charities? I feel that an estimate can be obtained only from your end. Have it prepared. This argument should be effectively answered. If there is no answer, the mistake should be corrected.[2]

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

397. LETTER TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH

SEGAON, WARDHA,
June 17, 1939

CHI. SUMANGAL,

I have your letter. Do write what you feel you must. It is not as if you had to follow my advice. You must follow the dictates of your inner voice.

It is good you decided to get married. I have no girl in view. Only your own endeavour can bear fruit. You must be patient.

---

[1] An extract from the letter appears in Vol. LXIX, p. 348.

[2] For Gandhiji's article on the resistance of the Parsi community to the liquor policy of the Congress; *ibid.*, pp. 387-9.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

398. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

June 20, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA,

Why did you not come to the station? Observe the rules about eating, sleeping and going for walks. I want your letters every day.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

399. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

June 21, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA,

You will have received the letter I sent you yesterday from the station. I shall expect your letter tomorrow. Come soon. Manju has returned from the hospital. You will be well. Lilavati has not met me yet.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

400. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

June 22, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA,

You were not there and I woke up at 2 o'clock last night. Then I could not sleep, so I got up and started writing letters. Now what would you say?

The rest from Pyarelal's letter.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

401. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

June 23, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have received your letter. I slept a lot last night. Yes, Ba is unhappy. She has a cough. For her sake your absence irks me. Be here by Sunday if you can do so.

Have I told you that we are co-existing with snakes and scorpions? God protects us. Have you got the antidote for snake-bite?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

402. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

On the Train,
July 6, 1939

CHI. MRIDULA,

I have spoken to Amtussalaam. For the present, I shall let Lakshmidas have Rs. 2,000 for khadi work. That work should be carried on under the name of the Jyoti Sangh or under any other name, but under the supervision of Lakshmidas. I would advise you only to collect the yarn till you are able to train a woman worker. The yarn should be tested by Lakshmidas. This he will have to do.

Sardar will speak to you about the work of training. Right now I have advised him to give you Rs. 1,000. This he will probably do. I have not had time to speak to him at length. Write to me whatever you want. Come and stay with me when you can. Do not do anything in haste.

Blessings from
Bapu

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11208. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

403. LETTER TO PYARELAL

On the Train,
July 6, 1939

CHI. PYARELAL,

I shall wait till your next letter. Get the thing corrected by Doctor. If you quit writing for *Harijan*, Mahadev and I will be crushed under the burden. And of course you are going to shoulder the burden of the correspondence. Otherwise, Mahadev or, maybe, both of us, will have a break-down. Leave the dream state. Whatever He wills will be; why grieve over anything? Things will happen at the appointed hour as He desires. Why should we devise schemes, nurse dreams or worry?

Sushila should give the accompanying letter to Lilavati and also comfort her.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

404. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

ON THE TRAIN,
July 6, 1939

CHI. LILA,

What weakness you are displaying! It is now that you are being tested in your life. Matriculation is only an excuse God has provided. You have been sent to Vanita Vishram on that pretext. If you fail there, your ashram life will have gone in vain and my hopes will have been destroyed. Why should you be defeated by minor inconveniences? Even if you help the lady who is looking after things there, you will be doing admirable work and satisfying your needs also in the right way. But you must have that much love within you; you must have patience and courage. Bear it in mind that your [matriculation][1] is in Vanita Vishram, not in New Era[2].

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The source is damaged here.

[2] New Era High School, Bombay, which the addressee had joined for studies

405. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

[Before *July 7, 1939*][1]

STUPID DAUGHTER,

Stupid is an apt adjective for you. And how stupid? It was nothing yesterday. Do you think there was any malice in what Devdas said? If there was any it was directed towards me. And whatever he says is for the good of all of us. Where was then any place in it for anger? How you cried — and for no reason! You must shed the habit. Why so much touchiness? Send me a telegram that you have calmed down. Abandon this stupidity. Ask Devdas's forgiveness. This does not mean that you should do everything that Devdas says. Do only what you think is proper. Persuade him patiently. I want a letter from you every day. I shall send you a telegram from Abbottabad to say what you should do. Keep writing to Vijaya and others.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

406. TELEGRAM TO PYARELAL

ABBOTTABAD,
July 10, 1939

PYARELAL
BIRLA HOUSE
MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD
BOMBAY

IF YOU ARE WELL START INSTANTLY.[2] WIRE.

BAPU

From a photostat : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The date has been inferred from the sentence "I shall send you a telegram from Abbottabad". Gandhiji was in Abbottabad from July 7 to 26, 1939.

[2] The addressee who had had a small incision made under his tongue, could not accompany Gandhiji when he left Bombay on July 5 for the Frontier Province.

407. LETTER TO MAURICE FRYDMAN

ABBOTTABAD,
July 10, 1939

MY DEAR FRYDMAN,

I am only today able to deal with your letter of 18th May. You say there should be no self-torture, self-compulsion, self-violence in the practice of non-violence. This is a profound error. There is no salvation without the cross. Self-torture is only so called. The right word is self-purification. The flesh must be subdued. The flesh has gained such mastery over us that it has to be dislodged. We are born slaves of the flesh. Freedom from that bondage is mastery over the flesh, the self. All *tapasya* is self-torture. All restraint is self-torture. It is a surgical operation which has got to be performed. The fleshly mantle divides you from me. I must destroy it if I love you, i. e., if I want to be one with you. Its destruction in this life means its complete subjection. Is this not quite clear? Love to you and Appu.

BAPU

From a copy: C. W. 11330

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408. TELEGRAM TO PYARELAL

ABBOTTABAD,
July 12, 1939

PYARELAL
BIRLA HOUSE
BOMBAY

MAY LEAVE KANAM[1].

BAPU

From a photostat: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Kano, son of Nirmala and Ramdas Gandhi

409. LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

ABBOTTABAD,
July 14, 1939

DEAR DR. GOPICHAND,

I have your letter. I should say let well alone. Do the best you can.

Yours,
BAPU

DR. GOPICHAND, M. L. A.
PUNJAB
LAHORE

From the original: Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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410. LETTER TO SHAMLAL

ABBOTTABAD,
July 17, 1939

DEAR SHAMLALJI,

Bapu has asked me to convey to you his remarks on your letter of 13th inst. He was very glad that you had taken to spinning regularly and were feeling attached to it. He would like you to learn spinning on the *takli*. Once you become an expert, *takli*-spinning affords you pleasure which even the spinning-wheel cannot equal. Moreover you won't need to interrupt your spinning when you have mastered your *takli* and it is no exaggeration to say that *takli* is your best friend and helper when you are faced with the prospect of a long and tiresome argument. I wonder whether you know that at Nalwadi under Vinoba's supervision no youngster, after a month's training only, spins less than 100 rounds in half an hour on the *takli*. The maximum speed is over 350 rounds in half an hour and the average does not fall below 160 rounds.

Bapu's health is fair in spite of all the handicaps. We are here at least till the 25th instant, when we may go to Kashmir. But this is not for publication.

Yours sincerely,
PYARELAL

From a photostat: G. N. 1289

411. LETTER TO HANNA LAZAR

[As at] Wardha,
July 24, 1939

MY DEAR HANNA,

I was delighted to have your letter after so many months. I have gone through your old letter of which you have sent me a copy.

Just at present you need no guidance. Your story is incomplete. But you will soon complete it. Whatever may be the story, the remedy is the same. As in the body so in the spirit though the diseases are various the cause is one and so is the remedy one, so in the spirit world, the cause of distemper is one and therefore the remedy also is one. Every spiritual distemper is a fleeing away from God. The surest remedy therefore is to seek the presence of God so much so that we see Him face to face. In the presence of God, there can be no sin, no sorrow, no anger, no malice, no falsehood. In His presence there is no fear, no external affliction can put us out. If this lesson of lessons is learnt there is no question, no doubt left.

Love.

Bapu

From the original: Gandhi-Kallenbach Correspondence. Courtesy: National Archives of India

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412. TELEGRAM TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

Abbottabad,
July 25, 1939

Dr. Gopichand Bhargava
Lahore

LEAVING TWENTYSIXTH FRONTIER MAIL. JOIN US JHELUM.

Gandhi

From the original: Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

413. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

ABBOTTABAD,
July 25, 1939

CHI. LILA,

I have your letter. You are unnecessarily making yourself miserable. Mend the situation in which you are placed. You may as well spend your time in improving the living conditions of girls. I have told you that under the pretext of matriculation God is shaping you. Vyas[1] has been praising you no end. While you are there, do the work which the matron is not doing or is unable to do. Whenever you find the atmosphere dirty, try to change it. Clean up the filth with your own hands. Others will automatically follow you. Think that you are yourself the matron. Think that I have sent you there for reforming Vanita Vishram, and it is for that that you are going to get your certificate. In the same process, you will also pass your examination. Do not worry. Study only as much as you can. Everything will come out right. Let this conviction lighten your burden. Balwantsinha has passed through a similar condition. Now he is happy. He was put in charge of a place where even an animal would not have stayed. But having learnt to bear hardships, he has improved.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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414. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

ON THE TRAIN,
July 27, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA, STUPID GIRL,

I shall be counting days. You will devote yourself to the work there with a steady mind. Devdas was asking me if you would talk to him. I said you certainly would. Now it would be nice if you took the initiative yourself. Listen calmly to all that he says and satisfy him. There must be no anger shown.

---

[1] M. T. Vyas, Acharya of New Era High School

Do not worry about Pyarelal. I shall see about him. You must stay there cheerfully. You will not quarrel with Mother. You will write regularly to Vijaya, Prabha, Lilavati, A. S., etc.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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415. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

ON THE TRAIN,
AFTER ITARSI,
July 28, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA,

At Mathura yesterday I posted you a letter. You will have received it. I asked you to meet Devdas. You should not worry about anything. Keep writing to me. There have been many visitors every night.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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416. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON,
July 29, 1939

STUPID GIRL,

I wrote to you twice during the train journey. Shankaran is well. He is not allowed to go up and down. He eats well. Mathew[1] is at Balkrishna's[2] place. He appears well. He came walking all the way here.

---

[1] P. G. Mathew

[2] Balkrishna Bhave

You will have met Devdas. I am getting on well. Kanu gave me massage and I dozed off. It is difficult to stop Ba from working. You were able to stop her. Ba also was free from care. Now she has to tend me. Let us see what happens. There is no rain here. People are distressed.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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417. LETTER TO PYARELAL

July 31, 1939

CHI. PYARELAL,

You have not done the correct thing if you have not eaten today. What adjective should be used for you for your not replying to Ba at all? It would be good if you ate even now.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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418. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON,
July 31, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have written you three letters. I could not write yesterday. I have received your letter. It does not acknowledge receipt of my letters. I wrote from Mathura, Betul and Segaon. You must stay there and give your whole heart to the work. It is good that you are finding some novelty in the atmosphere there. Kanu gives me massage every day. I also bathe regularly. The blood-pressure is not checked every day. Today Mahodaya checked it. The reading was 155/90.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

419. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 2, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA,

I received your two letters together. At least you received all my letters. I am keeping well. I have good sleep. I go to bed at 9.30 p. m. You must put on still more weight.

I am thinking about your hospital.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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420. LETTER TO ANASUYABEHN SARABHAI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 3, 1939

CHI. ANASUYABEHN,

Shankerlal tells me that you are not keeping well. You are suffering from indigestion and blood impurity. These can certainly be cured by hip-bath, mud treatment and change in the diet. If this regimen is not possible there then stay in Wardha. I would like to keep you in Segaon but here I shouldn't be able to provide the amenities you would want. Everything will be done for you in Wardha and at the same time you will be under my care. You cannot but get well.

Pass on the enclosed letter to Gulzarilal. I hope Bhabhi is all right and is not fretting about the tumour.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: S. N. 32819

421. LETTER TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 3, 1939

CHI. SUMANGAL,

Would you like to marry Maitri, the daughter of Dal Bahadur Giri? She is a good girl. Prabha knows her. You have also seen her.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

422. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 4, 1939

FOOLISH GIRL,

Your two letters have arrived together. I do write to you every alternate day. Shirin arrived here yesterday. She seems to be a good girl. It was she who checked my blood-pressure today. It was 135-88. Pyarelal's reading was the same. Then there is now a prisoner from Bengal. Nimu is there of course. I go to bed after 9.00 p. m. Right now it is 3.00 p. m. I am lying with a mud-pack on my stomach. I have been taking dates for the past three days. They are very nice. I remember you. People here are anxious because it has not rained. Do not worry about me.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

423. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 6, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. I have given to Ba your letter to her. Shirin checks my blood-pressure quite frequently. It is going a little high. It was 160/99 this afternoon. She herself must be writing. My weight is 103½ lb. It seems to have gone down a bit. I feel full of energy. I get good sleep.

Shankaran has been taken ill. He has fever. It was 102° yesterday. Shirin is looking after him. She is doing all the work with keen interest. She is even learning to spin.

I hope you are being careful about your food. Do you have to work at night?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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424. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 7, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA,

No doubt I want to build you a hospital. But it will be for the patients. I cannot have the hospital functioning without you. By your being here it may be possible to help the people in the neighbourhood and we may acquire some knowledge whereby we can provide cheap medicines to the villagers. It is with this idea in mind that I am thinking of building a hospital.

I am sending by book-post Shankaran's letter for you to read. He has no fever today. He was not given anything to eat. He was given only orange juice. Shirin of course gave him quinine.

There is a letter about Valjibhai. I am enclosing it. You can write to him direct. What has happened? You must also write to the doctor of the Sanatorium.[1]

You are all well educated. Then do you think Shakuntala will remain uneducated? Who values Hindi?

I am having sufficient sleep. There is only a difference of half an hour.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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425. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

WARDHA,
August 11, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA,

I could not write to you for two days. Shirin may be going. She has to reach there on the 16th. She may come back if she gets a job here. I am doing well.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
LADY HARDINGE COLLEGE HOSPITAL
NEW DELHI

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The T. B. Sanatorium at Mysore where Valji G. Desai was being treated

426. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 14, 1939

STUPID GIRL,

You are really stupid. You sit there and are afraid. You even forget that time is doing its work. And why should you be scared when someone attributes to you a failing you do not have? Why do you not learn this much from me that we should not allow ourselves to be affected however much we may be criticised or condemned? May be when you come here, you will face neither criticism nor condemnation.

The reply to Dr. Young is enclosed. He used to accompany me to the Working Committee meetings. Once Pyarelal and Shirin came along.

It will not do to be careless about food and sleep. It would be good if you did not spoil your eyes by falling to the lure of films. But if the craving is too strong, go and see them.

Nimu left for Bombay yesterday. Krishnachandra will be coming in a day or two. Kundar[1] has gone to Ba.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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427. LETTER TO N. S. VENKATAKRISHNAN

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 19, 1939

DEAR FRIEND[2],

The portion you object to is inoffensive in terms of non-violence of the type the Congress has reached. Moreover Congress

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[1] Kundar Diwan

[2] A Congress worker who had objected to the last paragraph of the Congress Working Committee's War Resolution of August, 1939, on the ground that it breathed violence and was repugnant to the non-violent creed of the Congress; *vide* Vol. LXX, pp. 406-7.

Governments have to represent both Congressmen and non-Congressmen.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

From a photostat: C. W. 10973. Courtesy: N. S. Venkatakrishnan

428. LETTER TO SARALADEVI SARABHAI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 19, 1939

DEAR SISTER,

I have already given you the blessing that your operation may be successful. I satisfy myself by seeking news of you from anyone who comes and knows you. You know how much I respect you. But this letter is to convey my good wishes to Ambalalbhai. Your operation will certainly go off without any trouble. I am even praying that both of you should always be happy and go on doing public service. There is no need to answer this letter.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11148. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

429. LETTER TO PYARELAL

August 21, 1939

CHI. PYARELAL,

Every day I want to have a talk with you, but I have not been able to do so. There must be some hidden fear behind it. Otherwise the wish would be fulfilled somehow. I cannot bear your fasting at all. It does disturb my work. You may be endowed with indefatigable energy, but the very knowledge that you are fasting prevents me from freely taking work from you. How nice it would be if you would forget about fasts, etc., and give greater importance to your duty towards me! The adjectives Devdas employs may be inapt but there is some justification in what he says. I am tolerating your philosophy but I do not understand it and I burn within. You can quench the fire if you so wish. That would bring peace to me. It would bring peace to Sushila and it would be good for her. Write a brief letter to Devdas.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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430. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 21, 1939

STUPID GIRL,

I have been wanting to write to you every day but can find no time. Today I have sat down to write this after my morning meal though it is *Harijan* day. I did not like your last two letters. They were hysterical. Why are you so restless? Why are you so much afraid of Devdas and the people here? Why should you tremble at the thought of coming here? What has happened to your knowledge of the *Gita* and all the talks we have had? On the one hand you are proclaiming to the world what you plan to do here and on the other you have doubts about your continuing to stay here. What stupidity! Free yourself of it. Why are you dying before your death?

Your description of your talk with Devdas is good. Your answers were also good. This dialogue has certainly done good. I hope you did not show any anger during the talk. The misunderstanding will be further cleared with more talks.

There is an Agrawal Eye Hospital at Daryaganj. Go and see it. I hope you are well and you observe rules in the matter of food.

There is always trouble from Pyarelal in the shape of fasts and so on. You are mischievous. Young wrote to me only because you gave him the occasion. If you had said you could not wait till after August, he surely would not have written? When the needs of the patients there are mentioned, how can I refuse? You yourself could not have refused. Now I am waiting for the

16th. What should I do? We shall see about your hospital after your arrival here. Shirin has not come.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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431. NOTE TO JAMNALAL BAJAJ

[Before *August 22, 1939*][1]

You must of course go. Seeing the ways of Om I can only advise that she should be married off as quickly as possible. She is not old enough in years but physically and mentally she is quite mature. I doubt very much if she can restrain herself any more. Of course you must consider well before settling the marriage. You must then leave it to her. In the end she will do as her fate dictates. If a suitable young man comes along do not wait too long. Consult Om again and again. Tell her of my distrust of her. Take her a letter from me if you wish.

From a photostat of the Gujarati: C. W. 10990. Courtesy: Ramakrishna Bajaj

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432. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 24, 1939

STUPID GIRL,

Pyarelal has gone to Nagpur with Krishnadas to visit David. Prakash arrived yesterday. He has taken her also with him to show her the clinic, etc. I have got two patients here—Durga and Asha Devi—for whose sake I do feel the need of your presence. Durga is afraid she may have appendicitis and Asha Devi has been suffering from fever for the past two months. But what can you do about this? However, I am so perturbed that twice in my dreams I spoke to you about it, telling you that you had neglected your duty by staying on there—had there not been work enough here? When I woke up I said to myself 'after all what could you have done?' Young compelled you and you passed the responsibility on to me! I could take only one decision. The dream was the expression of my anxiety. Why so much anxiety? That shows inadequate practice of the *Gita*! You must be free of all worry and complete your work.

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[1] From the reference to Om who was betrothed on August 22, 1939

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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433. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 26, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA,

Your letter is dated the 22nd. I wrote to you on the 24th. You must have received the letter. I am greatly rushed. of course I find comfort in the thought that Pyarelal writes to you every day.

My health of course is all right. Prakash and Pyarelal came from Nagpur yesterday. What Krishnadas has is not T. B. but pyorrhoea.

Prakash gave me news of Mother. Since you were with Mother, has something been done about her teeth? What is the diagnosis? Does it mean additional responsibility for you? Should I also give it a thought?

Mahadev reached here at 3 o'clock.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

434. LETTER TO PYARELAL

August 28, 1939

CHI. PYARELAL,

I do not interpret it the way you do. Here, what Devdas said had nothing to do with Sushila. He only referred to the fact that you were causing worry to everyone. If you have any doubt about it, you must ask Devdas. However wrong his ideas may be, his letter is frank. Even I agree with his comment about the fast. Ba said that even Prakash was crying today over your fast. It irks me that you seem to derive some pleasure in making people cry like that. You have not even replied to my letter. To whom should I reveal my pain? Should I cry like Sushila and Prakash? What would I gain by crying? Who can measure the pain you are causing through this fast? I long for a solution to this affair. I am daily praying to God for it.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

435. LETTER TO PYARELAL

[After *August 28, 1939*][1]

CHI. PYARELAL,

What you have written about Sushila is not correct. If it is not her duty to remain in Delhi on account of Mother, she has to pass her test here. In that alone lies her good. Devdas says that there is no need to think about him. Ba is pining for her. That is sufficient for Sushila. She is asking me every now and then when Sushila will be coming. My saying that you find pleasure in making a person cry is to be understood in terms of popular expression. When we make someone cry through our action, it is said, and rightly, that we find pleasure in making them cry. Should it not be said that at Abbottabad I derived pleasure from making Sushila cry?[1] No matter how much I myself may have cried at heart.

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[1] From the contents; *vide* the preceding item.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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436. LETTER TO PADMAJA NAIDU

MAGANWADI,
WARDHA (C. P),
August 30, 1939

MY DEAR LOTUS-BORN,

You are a brick! I shall make wise use of your labours. You will, I know, continue to do the needful in the difficult times there. Keep well. And how about the old lady?

Love.

PLAYMATE

SHRI PADMAJA NAIDU
ZAHEER MUNZIL, RED HILLS
HYDERABAD, DECCAN

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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[1] Gandhiji was in Abbottabad from July 7 to 26, 1939.

437. LETTER TO ANASUYABEHN SARABHAI

SEGAON,
August 30, 1939

CHI. ANASUYABEHN,

I received your gift. It is not good that you are not getting well. Write to me what Dr. Erulkar says. Bhabhi's fever should abate now. Is that doctor still there?

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI ANASUYABEHN
MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD
BOMBAY

[PS.]

If Shankerlal is there, tell him that I have sent a message for Tirpur paper.

From a photostat of the Gujarati: S. N. 3282

438. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON ASHRAM,
August 30, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA,

I read your long letter last night. The scene at Abbottabad rose before my eyes when I had scolded you and you had cried. I cannot forget your face as it looked then. Now when I think of my heartlessness my heart cries. Your answer to D. was correct.

You are faced with three questions : coming to me, fear as to what would happen if you came and your duty towards Mother. Your fear is meaningless. If you can learn to be tolerant, what do you have to fear and why? Can you not be content with serving me, and looking after the sick and working in the mess? The problem concerning Mother is very important. It is your duty as well as mine to think about it independently. But I do not have anything on which to base a decision. Pyarelal can be of little help in the matter. You alone should think calmly over it. You must also assess your own strength. My feeling is that Mother will have to come here and be with you. Not now. Let your dispensary be ready; let me have a room built for you. Then, too, there will be the question whether Mother can leave Mohanlal. You have to carry a great burden. You can decide the matter even after coming here on the 16th. Do not be afraid. God will be your guide. You do not have to get away before the 15th. Complete what you have undertaken.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Why are you not writing to Ba? She is yearning for you.

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

439. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

SEGAON ASHRAM,
WARDHA,
September 1, 1939

CHI. MATHURADAS,

Give my condolences to the relatives of the late Lakshmidas Tairsi. I only have sweet memories of his company. I had once written to him. I had also received a reply.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHETH MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI
74 WALKESHWAR ROAD
BOMBAY

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

440. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON,
September 7, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA,

What you said yesterday was not right. You have to understand your duty. You have to understand what Mother says. You must come only after pacifying her. I hope you are in good health. It pains me that you are unnecessarily making yourself unhappy. May God grant you peace.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

441. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON ASHRAM,
September 9, 1939

STUPID GIRL,

I got up by 3.30 a. m. Then I could not sleep. Though invisible, you have been before me ever since we met in Delhi. You will have received my letter. Ba's first question was: Hasn't Sushila come? Last night she asked when you would come. Babudi Sharada writes to ask : Hasn't Sushilabehn come? When will she come? Lila asks the same thing in her letters. All this from this side. As for myself what shall I say? But you are not to concern yourself with thoughts of me or of this place. You must consider independently what your duty is. You will come only with Mother's blessings, not after quarrelling with her. It is your duty to please Mohanlal. I must not do anything to make you neglect their happiness on my account. Your first duty is towards them. The second point concerns your letter to Pyarelal. You have mentioned your doing M. D. You have praised the life there. There is nothing wrong in it. It is only natural. You are free to do M. D.

Even if you want to take up the study today, you should not think of me. If your coming here does not give you contentment, you should not come. It would be proper to come here when your duty compels you to do so. If you come I shall be very happy. If you cannot come, I shall understand that your duty is to be there, not here. It would be a shame if you got scared of the atmosphere here. Now it is prayer time.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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442. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

SEGAON, WARDHA,
September 13, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA,

Ba is becoming impatient. Everybody is asking: "Is Sushilabehn coming on the 16th?" I therefore advise you to come within the stipulated time. But if Mother feels unhappy you should do what you consider to be your duty. Maybe you can make your final decision after coming here. I have great need of you for Krishnadas.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

443. LETTER TO PYARELAL

September 16, 1939

CHI. PYARELAL,

I was distressed to read your letter. You say that it was not part of your duty to send for the medicines, that you only had to instruct Krishnadas! If it was not your duty why did you not entrust the task to me? Why did you not ask me who should fetch the medicine or have it fetched? Why did you not immediately entrust it to Mahadev? Why did you wait for three days? Other people accusing you is one thing; what I myself observe is something else. You may as well say that you are neither willing nor able to undertake any responsible job. If this was made clear, then I would consider my wrath out of place. I would consider it proper to say that I should never get angry under any circumstances at all. But it is impossible to stop being angry with one's dear ones. Thus the images of people who provoke my anger are always present before me. Let us see when this can be remedied. I accept the implied meaning of your letter that I am facing the consequences of my own unfair actions. Hence I am just watching much of it and I know I have to go through it. On occasion I lose in a moment whatever I have gained.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

444. LETTER TO JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM

SEGAON,
September 18, 1939

MY DEAR JAIRAMDAS,

Please see that I get a car for Gosibehn at the latest at 1.30 p. m. She has to transact business at Maganwadi and then entrain for Bombay. I hope Devi and Premi have arrived safe and sound.

Love.

BAPU

From the original: C. W. 11046. Courtesy: Arjun Jairamdas

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445. LETTER TO PADMAJA NAIDU

MAGANWADI,
WARDHA (C. P.),
September 18, 1939

DEAR LOTUS-BORN,

I have your beautiful letter in front of me unanswered. Well, you are playing the game. But don't overwork yourself nor be overstrung. Take things calmly. Don't take them to the breaking point.

Love.

PLAYMATE

SHRI PADMAJA NAIDU
ZAHEER MUNZIL
RED HILLS
HYDERABAD, DECCAN

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

446. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

SEGAON,
September 20, 1939

CHI. MRIDU,

I have your letter. Come whenever you want. I was under the impression that I had explained the situation to you. I have no money. Amtussalaam was to collect the money but she was to use it in my name. Rs. 600/- belonging to her was lying with me. Now that she has abandoned the work, she has also lost the ability to collect funds. Now tell me what I should do. Surely, it was not as though I trusted A. S. and did not trust you or Lakshmidas? How could that be? But you should not give up the work you have undertaken. Shankerlal is here. I will consult him. I will discuss the matter with you if you come. I was very happy to read about Mummy.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11210. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

447. LETTER TO PYARELAL

MAGANWADI,
NAGPUR,
WARDHA,
September 24, 1939

CHI. PYARELAL,

I was considerably disturbed to leave you behind. I could not decide whether I should leave you or take you along. I am not at all happy about your mental condition. But what can I do? It seems I am suffering the consequences of my own actions. What request can I make to you? Do I have the right to request you any more? May God grant you peace. It would suffice even if He inspires you to think about Sushila. Look after Ba, Krishnadas, Prithvisingh.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

448. LETTER TO PYARELAL

ON THE TRAIN,
September 25, 1939

CHI. PYARELAL,

You will have received the letter I wrote you from Nagpur. This is another. I find your absence irksome. Why am I afraid of you? Why this fear of writing or saying anything? Do you know the reason? I think I know it. Having frightened you many times, I have myself become frightened. Perhaps I have no remedy for this fear. Is it that you too do not have the remedy? In that case the situation is doubly tragic. What has happened to my non-violence? What can non-violence have to do with fear? Think about it and send me a telegram if you can calm down and are able to forget my remarks.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

449. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

September 27, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA,

I arrived this morning. I am leaving for Wardha this evening. You will come, won't you? The car is coming to take you. Come with your luggage. You can keep the car waiting for a while. You will have the opportunity to see Mother and others, won't you?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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450. NOTE TO PYARELAL

September 30, 1939

You cannot write an article without knowing anything about the kind of paper for which you intend to write. You can write one thing for the *Modern Review*, another thing for the *Chronicle* and yet another for the *Harijan*. You do not even know where the paper is. Is it some obscure print-out or a reputed paper? The article in question can only be for a paper like the *Statesman*. It is good as an article. But it is not accurate. It is only in praise of the experiment at Segaon. Mentally I decry it every day. I will not support what you write. There is exaggeration in the article and, in avoiding the mention of the shortcomings of the people living at Segaon, it has become wholly false. Anyone coming here with the impression gathered from that article would go back disappointed. Hence, so long as the other side too is not presented, it would be mere untruth.

BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

451. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

On the Train,
October 6, 1939

CHI. LILA,

I have your letter. Where do I have the time to write to my heart's content? You should complete what you have taken in hand. Do not think of coming before the long vacation. I may not be able to write, but you should keep on writing. Dwarkadas, Damayanti and the children will be well. We shall be reaching Wardha today.

Blessings from
Bapu

Shri Lilavatibehn Asar
New Era School
Hughes Road
Bombay-7

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

452. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

October 10, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA,

All the way through I kept thinking of you. Why am I not able to make you understand my point? Maybe my love is imperfect or, which is the same thing, impure. It is acceptable to me that you have come to me for my sake and you are going to stay also for the same reason. But those who come only for my sake also do my work and at times there is separation. But that is only for the sake of my work, not otherwise. This much in brief. Your interpretation of it has no place in it. You will be well.

Blessings from
Bapu

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

453. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

Tuesday [October 10, 1939][1]

CHI. MRIDU,

I am observing silence today. I may break it at 3 o'clock. But it is impossible to find time today. Tomorrow is the meeting of the Working Committee. It would depend on how much time it takes. Mahadev will find out and tell you. Bharati can certainly meet me on Thursday. You will of course stay on till we can meet.

BAPU

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11209. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

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454. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

October 12, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA,

You are not unhappy about what you said about massage at the time of bathing? Would you feel happy? Did you like the telegram that was sent to Delhi? Are you calm?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] From the contents it appears that the letter belongs to October, 1939. It is written on the back of a letter from the addressee to Gandhiji dated Octobor 9, 1939, a Monday.

455. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

October 13, 1939

CHI. SUSHILA,

If Prithvi Singh can do the massage, you must tell him. Kr[ishna] Ch[andra] must be told about bathing. Both of them have to be seen on the first day. If I have to do all that myself, it would be a great burden on my silence. It would be difficult to write down the instructions for them every time. Hence, in these modifications I need your complete co-operation.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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456. LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

October 14, 1939

DEAR DR. GOPICHAND,

In the present state of communal feeling it is impossible to do anything.[1]

Yours,
BAPU

From the original: Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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[1] The addressee in his letter dated October 11 had requested Gandhiji, on behalf of some eminent persons, to give a concrete shape to the proposal for a Jallianwala Bagh Memorial.

457. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEGAON,
October 20, 1939

CHI. PYARELAL,

What a letter from you! I have not understood it at all. It does not contain answers to my questions. If you believe that my decisions are inspired by God, then I should not find it a strain to get work out of you. These are our decisions:

1. From Tuesday onward you will do the massage and bathe me. Sushila will do these on Sundays and Mondays.
2. You will take care of the mail, maybe with a sense of detachment but with the same interest.
3. You will write something for *Harijan*.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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458. LETTER TO PYARELAL

October 24, 1939

CHI. PYARELAL,

I agree that it would have been better for me to have you rather than Sushila to attend to my massage and bath. But since you will be busy with the *Harijan* work on Sundays and Mondays, Sushila can do these on those days. I must not waste time over this argument. I shall be happy if you can do this much cheerfully. I have discussed it with Sushila.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

459. LETTER TO PANNALAL JHAVERI

October 24, 1939

CHI. PANNALAL,

I am impatient for a talk with you. But I am saving my time and my wits. Before going, have a good look at the dairy, the fields and so on and let me know your conclusions about anything else you may have seen.

I forbade Nanibehn to massage my feet. That was for the sake of A. But my word had no effect. I am facing such tests here all around.

Blessings from
BAPU

[From Gujarati]
Manavtana Prahari—Pannalal Jhaveri, p. 33

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460. LETTER TO PYARELAL

October 27, 1939

CHI. PYARELAL,

I do not have the strength to command you. I do not wish to thrust on you a burden which you cannot carry. I wish to entrust to you only the work of your choice. When I ask you to do the massage and it hurts your feelings, it also hurts my feelings. I do not know what has caused your anguish. If it is only mental, the remedy for it is in God's hands or yours. If there is something which I can do let me know. I shall do it or at least try. If you find attending to the mail burdensome I shall take away that burden. I am being tested outside. I am being tested here and within my heart. That is why I am not able to find any way out. How can I guide you in your pitiable state? I am willing to break my silence if you wish to talk. Perhaps writing suits you better. May God be our guide.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

461. LETTER TO KUNDAR DIWAN

[*October 1939*][1]

BHAI KUNDAR,

Your letters arrive regularly. You have enclosed Vachchharajbhai's letter which, too, is good. Balkrishna should stay there for the present. The present is the best time to benefit from the weather there.

You mentioned your nature. In all these matters ahimsa or pure love is the only way. If we start with recognizing the temperament of our patient, or colleague or opponent, much friction can be avoided.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Hindi: G. N. 214

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462. TELEGRAM TO PADMAJA NAIDU

WARDHAGANJ,
November 11, 1939

PADMAJA NAIDU
RED HILLS
HYDERABAD, DECCAN

LIVE LONG. LIVE TRUE. LOVE.

PLAYMATE

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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[1] From the reference to Balkrishna's illness; *vide* Vol. LXX, p. 231.

463. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI[1]

SEGAON, WARDHA,
November 12, 1939

CHI. MATHURADAS,

Those who are on committees do not have to come out for the present. The addressee had asked whether in pursuance of the Congress resolution of October 22, 1939, Congressmen who were members of Municipalities ought to resign. I see no harm if Government officials are heading them. We shall have an opportunity of testing them. We can even quarrel with them if it becomes necessary. Maybe the committees will be superseded.

Let the Municipality maintain all connections. Non-co-operation this time is not like it was in 1920. These are my personal views. You can decide the matter in consultation with Sardar.

Harijans should certainly have a right to use the cremation ground which is under municipal control. The Municipality should requisition houses in some areas. These houses can be rented out to everyone, but Harijans should have the first preference.

Are you looking after your health?

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The first and second paragraphs of the letter appear in Vol. LXX, p. 340.

464. TELEGRAM TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

WARDHA,
November 16, 1939

DR. GOPICHAND
LAJPATBHUVAN
LAHORE

NOT GOING DELHI.[1]

BAPU

From the original: Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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465. LETTER TO SUMANGAL PRAKASH

SEGAON, WARDHA,
November 17, 1939

CHI. SUMANGAL,

I have your letter. I am glad your marriage has been according to your wishes. May you both be happy and serve the country.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI SUMANGAL PRAKASH
NAVASHAKTI KARYALAYA
PATNA

From a photostat of the Hindi: Sumangal Prakash Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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[1] The addressee in his letter of November 12 had expressed his wish to meet Gandhiji in Delhi, if he was going there.

466. *LETTER TO PYARELAL*

November 18, 1939

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have your chit. I have not understood it well. My demand is quite simple. If you can accept it, I may or may not get any work out of you. If you can act in good faith, nothing is spoilt. I have not received many letters of the type you imagine. But if somebody writes something, should I divulge it even if it is irrelevant? Is it possible? Explain it to me. But one thing I have already made clear : that is that when I cannot tell something to someone, no one should say anything about it to me.

Meet Parachure Shastri and find out everything from him. He is constantly in my mind.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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467. *LETTER TO C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR*

SEGAON, WARDHA,
December 12, 1939

DEAR FRIEND,

Mahadev has shown me your letter to him. Why do you say I am cold towards you? I would ask you please not to mistake our differences in viewpoints for coldness. I hope you are keeping well.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

From the original: C. Vijayaraghavachariar Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

468. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
December 28, 1939

CHI. LILA,

You should really not expect letters from me. There should be letters only when there is no other alternative. We should save even a minute if it can be saved. What does it matter if I do not write letters? And what is particularly significant if I write? What kind of love is it that needs the support of letters? You should think about nothing except your studies. Yes, you must also give thought to the question of money. Being away from me you should reflect more and should become serious. You have taken up studies. All this should be included in it. Your speech should be marked with seriousness, greater firmness and restraint. "Education without thought is false." You are not studying for the sake of the examination. Rather, you are using the examination as an inducement to study. The real purpose of education should be self-development. Therefore, concentrate well on your studies and come after passing your examination. Mahadev came the day before yesterday. Ba is still in Delhi.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

469. NOTE TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

December 29, 1939

To keep you purely for my own sake would be a crime in my view and a denial of my whole life. But I want your presence for a number of reasons. These include Pyarelal, you yourself, and looking after the sick. If along with these, you continue looking after my physical well-being, it will be acceptable to me. I cannot be concerned with your reason for staying. I can even understand that you can stay here only to serve me. For you it would even be creditable. In practice, it makes no difference so long as I am in Segaon. But when I go out and feel that your presence is necessary here and you feel the opposite you must give in to my view. This, as I see it, means that your duty lies in not leaving me. Since you consider serving me your primary duty, if there is any difference of opinion when I have to go out, you must bear with me. In that alone lie your good and my peace.

BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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470. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

Friday [1939][1]

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have received all your letters. You are making a grave mistake! I suspect myself. There is no remedy for suspicion. Wisdom suggests that notwithstanding this suspicion you should give me all the services that I need. How can the suspicion go when you are staying so far away? I do not want to beat about the bush. This much I know, that no matter what happens, you should not leave me and should be with me even if on my conditions. Even Devdas's doubt or fear or whatever you call it would be dispelled if you stayed with me.

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[1] From the contents the letter appears to have been written in 1939.

So I say you should come over for my work. You will be rendering great help thereby and it is possible that if I have any illusion, it will be dispelled.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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471. NOTE TO PYARELAL

[*1939*][1]

What have you written for *Harijan*? Does it have an article by you this time? And does that mean you need not write anything more?

Sushila told me last night while going to bed that you were preparing to give up everything within eight days. That is a different thing. But you are not going to run away leaving me in the lurch, are you? I did not give it any importance when she told me about it. But I woke up half an hour ago and felt uneasy. Hence I woke you up.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] This and the following two items have been placed in the source among letters of 1939.

472. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
[*1939*]

CHI. SUSHILA,

I hope you got all my letters. Your letter of the 23rd causes some anxiety. As regards your mother, it is for you to consider what your duty and mine is because you alone know all the facts.

On the other hand, I am counting the days for your arrival. Prakash is leaving tomorrow. She did a good job of checking the blood-pressure. She accompanies me on my constitutionals, both morning and evening. She has mixed well with everybody. Yesterday Krishnadas came to stay. Manojna is with him. Anand Gyolo arrived the day before yesterday.

You have not acknowledged, nor even given me a hint of, the papers I sent you regarding Sankaran's case.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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473. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
[*1939*]

CHI. SUSHILA,

What is this I hear? You have fallen ill because of carelessness about food and insufficient sleep. Why was this and how? We had agreed that you would return from there after putting on some weight and gaining some energy. Why should you succumb if people press you to eat this and that? Do you not have the strength to refuse?

Your article in *The Statesman* was good. Do you realize that you have tied yourself down in that article?

The dairy, the cows, etc., have to be taken nearer to the well. The dairy has a *pucca* building. There is a proposal to set up a hospital for you there. Enclosed is Mirabehn's plan. Have a look at it and give it thought. Whatever has to be done will be done only after you return.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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474. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
January 7, 1940

CHI. MATHURADAS,

Sonavate, a Harijan, is a clerk in your office on a salary of Rs. 79. He is a B. A., LL. B. Is it possible to give him a promotion there? What are the reports about his behaviour? As no Hindus are offering him any accommodation, he is staying with a Muslim family. Should not the Corporation reserve a *chawl* or a building for such people? Would there be any opposition to it?

It should not entail financial loss. But even if it does, I think we should bear it. Think about it from all points of view and write to me. I hope your mind is at rest and you are getting along well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

475. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

SEVAGRAM,
January 19, 1940

CHI. LILA,

I received your letter. I have taken so much burden upon myself that it is difficult to cope with letters from persons like you. But sitting here I am doing whatever needs to be done. Do not lose heart. What appears difficult will become easy and interesting with effort. I have no desire at all to go to Poona. Come during the holidays. Give up any other craving. Your duty is to study. We shall see about nursing, etc. Right now, the issue is the intermediate examination. Learning never goes waste.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

The rest from Mahadev's letter.

SHRI LILAVATIBEHN UDESHI
KANJI KHETSI CHHATRALAYA
65 MINT ROAD
BOMBAY FORT

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

476. *NOTE TO PYARELAL*

January 22, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

Look into the mystery concerning the khadi article. How was it left out? And how did it appear on your cushion today? See my note in the Ashram note-book. Lately I have been mostly observing silence.

Did you send the letter to Gajanan?

BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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477. *NOTE TO PYARELAL*

January 29, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

Take this as my last note for now. Nothing should be left out. Show everything to me. I shall glance through it. Did you telephone Girdhari?

BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

478. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

ON THE TRAIN,
February 3, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

What pain you caused me! And while leaving you threw the barb: "What is the good of letters?" So much anger? Consider. If I let you abandon the patients and take you with me for the sake of my health, I would be demeaning myself and lose the dharma I have followed all my life. Why can you not understand that it would not be right for me to take you with me, leaving Kishorelalbhai behind? Here the question is not of medical knowledge. The question is of my sentiment. But right now, I have lost my place in your eyes. You seem to be under the impression that I am purposely hurting you. What kind of weakness was it that you did not even walk with me? But I know that at the root of your odd behaviour was your unhappiness. If you leave me, out of obstinacy, you may be sure that I shall not run the dispensary as it is being run now. The instruments will go with you. What good will they be to me? You are forgetting your duty.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Calm down. Think. Listen to me. Give up the idea of going away. Just because you would not be with me for a couple of months in a year, will you give up serving me for the rest of the ten months? Give some thought to the matter. Have a little pity. What I have done is in your and my interest and in the interest of the Ashram. I shall be happy to receive a telegram that your mind is at peace.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

479. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

February 4, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

You will have received my letter of yesterday. I had been expecting your telegram today. It did not come. Well, I know this much, that what I am saying is cent per cent true. What you are saying is cent per cent wrong. My only sorrow is that I am not able to convince you. I have talked with Pyarelal to my heart's content. Doing what you say will degrade me and cause you harm.

You have to consider how far it is right for you to abandon me completely because I am not taking you with me on my tour.[1] It will be highly improper to run away on the 29th. Even if you have got to go, there should be some discretion and method about it. Abandon your stupidity and be alert.

You should watch the diets of Valjibhai and Bharatanand. Kishorelalbhai should get well. I have attended to the Chhindwada affair. We shall have the information here.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

480. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

February 5, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I cannot forget you even at night. How stupid you are! What things you had to say about the patients! I was not at all prepared for such callousness. The more I think over what you said that day, the more I am distressed. Has your being with me only brought you harm? Your studies were abandoned. You had a good job which you lost only because of me. Your life was disorganized. Why should I blame only your stupidity for all this? Why not my selfishness? Had I not been cauhgt in my own selfishness, would you have stayed with me? When you leave here, how will you explain it? How will I explain it? Should I say that you abandoned me because I could not take you with me on my tour? What will the patients think? What will Shankaran think? Whatever you want to do, do it in a systematic way. Mira must have taken Kunverji to the hut.

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[1] Gandhiji was to leave Wardha on February 15 on a tour of Bengal and Bihar.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

481. LETTER TO PREMI JAIRAMDAS

[February 7, 1940][1]

MY DEAR PREMI,

I saw the Swami today on the train. In fact he travelled with us for an hour. I told him everything about Baba and he is prepared to go to Segaon to examine and treat Baba, or to have him at Delhi for treatment. Bapu says we will do exactly as Baba wishes. So please discuss it with him and let me have a line in reply immediately so that I may inform the Swami. He is a busy man and I shall heve to give him a few days' previous notice.

We had your telegram duly and we were all glad that Baba was feeling better there. I do hope the improvement is being maintained. Please let us have a wire again tomorrow. Bapu is always anxious about him, and a wire every alternate day may be just the thing to do.

Yours affectionately,
MAHADEV

From the original: C. W. 11047. Courtesy: Arjun Jairamdas

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[1] There are two dates noted at the head of the letter, February 7, 1940 and February 8, 1940. Gandhiji was on the train on this date, having left Delhi for Wardha.

482. LETTER TO PREMI JAIRAMDAS

SEGAON, WARDHA,
February 9, 1940

CHI. PREMI,

I have your letter. I want a letter daily. There is no harm in staying on there as long as you like. We shall be leaving here for Calcutta on the 15th evening. We shall return on the 27th or the 28th.

Are you able to read my handwriting? If you cannot, I shall write in English.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI PREMIBEN
C/o DR. C. S. SAHNI
KHANDWA, C. P.

From the Hindi original: C. W. 11048. Courtesy: Arjun Jairamdas

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483. LETTER TO SAROJINI NAIDU

SEGAON, WARDHA,
February 12, 1940

DEAR OLD SINGER,

If old women like you need blessings from young men like me, you have my blessings for one more year being written off the account against you. May your song never fade.

Love.

SPINNER

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

484. LETTER TO PYARELAL

February 12, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

My advice is that Sushila should accompany me and you should stay here. This arrangement is only for this occasion. You should not think that Sushila's intention or decision has anything to do with it. But if Sushila does not like it and you too do not like it and if Sushila has made up her mind immediately to leave Sevagram, you must go with her. If she can wait till I return from Ramgarh, then you should get ready to go with me.[1] If she is not willing to go with me to Ramgarh, then I insist that she should remain here till I get back. Let me know what you decide.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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485. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEGAON,
February 14, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have picked up the pen but God alone knows if I shall be able to write what I have to write.

My step is towards the quest of truth. It dawned on me that I was following the path of untruth. Yesterday the turmoil in my mind was beyond endurance. My decision has become a secondary matter. The great thing is the background of that decision. And what is the untruth? Well, there is Sushila. I take her as an example. It was an untruth to let her believe that I am keeping her as my physician. I wanted to draw her to me. The reasons are many. But all of them put together would not have attracted her. So I let her believe that she is with me as my physician. I would consider it sinful to have her principally as my physician. I would consider it the proper thing for her to give me medical care while doing my other work. This would not always include her travelling with me. Whatever work I entrusted to her would be service done to me. And while doing that work she could also look after my medical needs and be content. This attitude of 'all or nothing' is a great mistake. How long am I going to live? How can she have the heart to leave me? Why does she forget that she does so many other jobs for me? I consider it sheer obstinacy on her part even to overlook the fact that her presence will give you the satisfaction of being near her. You will please her. Now you guide her in any way you think proper. I consider it your duty to accompany me.

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[1] Gandhiji had to be present at Ramgarh for the Congress Working Committee discussions from March 15 to 19.

Now I come to the main point. If I have to lose Sushila it will be because of the untruth which I have mentioned. If I had not resorted to it, Sushila would not possibly have come. If that had happened, no harm would have come to her. Now if she leaves, there is danger of her being harmed. The blame then would be on me.

There was untruth in saying 'yes' to Kanchan, etc. There was untruth in saying 'yes' to Rajkumari. It was softness on my part to give them the impression of being needed when I actually did not need them. There is no place for softness in truth, for otherwise there is no non-violence in it. If I did not see their good in their coming to Santiniketan and Malikanda it was my duty to firmly stop them. Yesterday God granted me the strength to follow that path of duty. I could not tell them so in the manner I wanted to. But take it as it is. My way will become easier if you follow this.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

486. *LETTER TO PYARELAL*

After *1.00 a.m.* [Before *February 15, 1940*][1]

CHI. PYARELAL,

I am truly tormented. So I am up and write this.

The more I think the more I can see it as clearly as daylight that what Sushila demands or desires is incompatible with dharma. This is how I understand her position. She will stay with me only if she can accompany me as my physician wherever I go; otherwise she will leave. I must not accept this demand. Of course there are occasions when she has to go around with me for one reason or another. At present even that is not the case. I would look upon it as plain *adharma* if Sushila should leave me now because I cannot accept her demand. In my heart I can find no justification for her going away. This is a critical period for me. I need her services for other things if not for my body. And I need you. If Sushila is around she will certainly look after my bodily comforts. If both of you look upon it as your dharma to quit all this, then by all means Sushila may go. And surely you will take her. If you regard this as your dharma, you have to fulfil it. I see in it nothing but *adharma*. And I cannot bless what I regard as *adharma*. I can only pray that God may make both of you follow dharma. There is no place for sentiment here. I have only considered what is dharma for all three of us.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] From the contents it appears that the letter was written before Gandhiji left Wardha on February 15, 1940 for Calcutta.

487. LETTER TO PYARELAL

February 15, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

I like your letter very much. I would like to make a few comments. But there is no time now. Your decision is not right. Sushila has got to be persuaded that she cannot accompany me on this tour. She is being unreasonably obstinate. She can be taken only at the cost of the truth I have discovered. I cannot explain this in a sentence or two. If she cannot be at peace and if you find it necessary for you to stay back you may do so. Of course, that would reveal Sushila's childishness. This thing is so clear that she must understand it. You should have the power to make her understand.

Send a telegram to Prakash if you think it necessary. Maybe she will understand the point.

All this hurts me a lot, but following the path of truth is more difficult than walking on the edge of a sword. May that truth be revealed to you. I am still hopeful that Sushila herself will realize this and give up the obstinacy.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

488. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

February 15, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

What can I write to you? Whatever I have done has been out of a sense of duty. You must calm down. Accept my advice. Forget about leaving. Have trust in God. Ba is unhappy about the talk of your going. The matter came up while we were in the car. It is not at all proper for you to be obstinate.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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489. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SANTINIKETAN,
February 18, 1940

STUPID DAUGHTER SUSHILA,

I think of you wherever I am. At the same time I can see that what seemed as harshness on my part was really not harshness. It was right not to have brought you and others here. The reasons were several. It is unnecessary to dilate upon them. I hope you are in good health and fine spirit. I have sent Mahadev to Calcutta today as Bablo has been taken ill. Poor Bablo could see nothing [here]. I am doing well. I could not have the massage. Other things are going on as usual. I go to bed early at night. I had my hand caught in the window. Now it is all right. The injury was slight.

I hope Valjibhai and Kunverji are well. Zohra and Shirin met me. Zohra must have sent my message.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

490. *LETTER TO DEVDAS GANDHI*

SEGAON,
February 20, 1940

CHI. DEVDAS,

I like your advocacy of the Viceroy's case. But you have been so carried away that you have lost sense. I would certainly not be discourteous, you may be sure of it. There is no need to elaborate on what he has said.[1] I had already said I was ready to stay on till the 14th if that was necessary. As such, I had nothing more to offer. It was futile to prolong my stay. My firmness was about the case. What can I do about it? If I give the reason suggested by you, it would mean giving a wrong explanation for postponing civil disobedience. He liked what I said. I said that we ourselves were not prepared. Moreover, where is the question of a conflict so long as there is hope? What we have to see is whether my belief that he is a clean man turns out to be true or he is playing a double game. The newspapers and letters I receive raise a doubt. In reply to the remark "Bapu ruined everything in a hurry" you say that it was the situation in Bengal that did it. That is far from the truth and is unfair to me. What kind of a general would I be if I were so weak? During our talk I had in mind neither the Bengal situation nor the Working Committee. It was only my own inclination. If I think of our own weakness, I should ask for less. But is not my case altogether different? Is Great Britain herself prepared to do justice?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Gandhiji had met the Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow in Delhi on February 5. For his statement to the press emphasizing the vital differences between the Congress demand for freedom and the Viceroy's offer; *vide* Vol. LXXI, pp. 186-9.

491. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

February 23, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

There is no news from you. How is Parachure Shastri? I have written to Biyaniji[1] at Chhindwada. I hope Balkrishna and Kunverji are able to bear the heat.

I am keeping perfectly good health.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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492. TELEGRAM TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

GANDHI SEVA SANGH,
February 24, 1940

SUSHILA
SEGAON
WARDHA

TELL VALJIBHAI TAKE MILK TREATMENT WITH REST.

BAPU

From the original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Brijlal Biyani

493. LETTER TO ABDUL MAJID KHAN

[February 1940][1]

Since you have the support of all the eminent Congressmen, if you are defeated it will be because the majority of graduate voters are not Congress-minded.[2] It will also show that in your province at least the Congress hold on the educated men is not as great as it should be. I hope you will win.

M. K. GANDHI

From a copy: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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494. LETTER TO PREMI JAIRAMDAS

ON THE TRAIN TO WARDHA,
March 3, 1940

CHI. PREMI,[3]

You have given me news regularly. I wonder if you are still there. I hope the progress continues.

Love to you all.

BAPU

SHRI PREMIBEHN
C/o. DR. C. S. SAHANI
KHANDWA

From the original: C. W. 11049. Courtesy: Arjun Jairamdas

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[1] As supplied in the source

[2] The addressee was a candidate for the Punjab University fellowship elections.

[3] This is in the Devanagari script.

495. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEVAGRAM,
March 7, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have read your previous letter. My impression was correct. There was nothing in it to which I could object. I do not consider your second letter proper. Sushila is convinced that she is here to provide me medical care. Hence she considers it her duty to be wherever I may be. She says that it is of no consequence to her whether I accept this position or not. She will be content if I always keep her with me. She will be ready to make exceptions in cases of emergency sickness. If I take her along with me with any other thought, it will be sheer self-deception. Hence, as I view the situation, it presents a dilemma. Then, Sushila also says that she does not mind being considered the sixth in the same place as the other five. I would not be inviting any blame if I take it that way, because Sushila is useful to me in many ways other than medical services. But I do not consider any of the other five indispensable. I can let any of them go whenever I desire. Actually, five are not like that. Just as I can relieve any of the five any time I wish, I can also relieve Sushila. But when I say so, she refuses to believe me because she does not trust me. That is the crux of the matter. The fact remains, however, that one may try to gloss it over with sweet words. How can I overcome this distrust? It is a pitiable situation.

Now about you. If I considered you someone separate, I would consider doing something by way of repentance. But that thought is not in my mind any longer. Now you are what Mahadev is.

So you must now guide Sushila in a manner you think fit. I am absolutely clear in my mind. Her decision to leave is a great mistake. But what I think is of no consequence. Whatever you two consider as dharma will be dharma.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

496. LETTER TO PYARELAL

March 8, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

Your letter is painful. It is strange. Maybe we are talking in different languages. No, your very first sentence is not correct.

I am totally against Sushila staying with me only as my physician and for my sake. I have never kept her with me on those terms and I am not keeping her like that today. I have kept her as my daughter and sister. I still wish to keep her. But I see that I have committed a grave fault. I followed the path of untruth. I let her believe that she is with me only as my physician. If she goes, it will be my expiation.

What else should I write? What can I do when language is ineffective? The circumstances have not changed. My untruth has come to light.

Blessings from
Bapu

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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497. LETTER TO PYARELAL

March 10, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

This letter is not a little painful. Though painful I shall bear it, as I am doing.

The words you put into my mouth express your belief not mine. Only the portion which seems superfluous is real. Neither S. nor anyone else is indispensable to me. Nor can anyone have a higher or a lower place. Such a fear can never be real. What I see is that I have lost the trust of both of you. Where is the question of argument where there is trust? If S. feels humiliated in staying here or if it will mean her undoing, I must put up with her departure. S. is not at all superfluous. She enjoys the same position which Mahadev and you enjoy. She is with me not as my physician, but as she happens to be with me, I avail myself of her medical skill.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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498. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

ON THE TRAIN,
March 13, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I do hope that you would not be able to go in spite of your wanting. It would be a great mistake to go. I have not the slightest doubt about it. Ba also thinks the same. May God grant you forbearance and a sense of discrimination.

Satisfy Balwantsinha. Kishorelalbhai will be well. Coax Amtul Salaam to take something for her cough. Gaura I hope is doing well.

Zohra had been here. She had also brought food.

I slept thrice during the day. I was mentally quite fatigued.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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499. LETTER TO REV. SATCHELL

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
March 23, 1940

DEAR REV. SATCHELL,

I have kept your letter by me all these months. My experience tells me that no society can be held together unless it is ruled by truth and non-violence. To accept the rule of these two invisible forces is a difficult task. I hope therefore that in your society you will prefer quality to quantity.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

From a photostat: C. W. 10958. Courtesy: Prime Minister's Office

500. LETTER TO PREMI JAIRAMDAS

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
March 27, 1940

CHI. PREMI,

I have your letter. Please give the enclosed to Father, if you think it should be given to him. Will it be safe to take him to Sindh in his present condition? Why not to Kashmir as he had originally planned? Somehow or other I dread the idea of going to Sindh especially at this time of year. You won't be remiss in writing to me. A postcard will do. I must have the latest condition.

Love.

BAPU

From the original: C. W. 11050. Courtesy: Arjun Jairamdas

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501. LETTER TO PREMI JAIRAMDAS

SEVAGRAM,
March 31, 1940

CHI. PREMI,[1]

Our letters crossed. I hope Father is none the worse for the journey or the climate there. My letter contained the *mala* for you. I hope you got it safe. You will give me a detailed letter and guard Father against unwanted interviews.

Love.

BAPU

From the original: C. W. 11052. Courtesy: Arjun Jairamdas

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[1] This is in the Devanagari script.

502. LETTER TO GLADYS OWEN

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
April 11, 1940

MY DEAR GLADYS,

Though your question was urgent, I could not overtake it before now. I think you should hold on to the Ashram and do what you can. It is clear that you are wanted there.

You must have read all about C. F. A.[1] He was a man of God.

Yours sincerely,
BAPU

From a photostat: C. W. 11281. Courtesy: Dr. Priyamvada Mathur

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503. LETTER TO MARGARET FIERCH

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
April 15, 1940

DEAR SISTER[2],

I thank you for your clear answer to my letter. I realize that you cannot act otherwise than you have done.[3] Of course my effort will continue.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

From a photostat: C. W. 10940. Courtesy: Marjorie Sykes

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[1] C. F. Andrews had died in Calcutta on April 5; *vide* Vol. LXXI, p. 393.

[2] A Quaker friend of Mary Barr who was at this time secretary of the Quaker group around Hoshangabad and Itarsi

[3] Gandhiji had been working to obtain the release of a young German who had been interned by the Government of India as an "enemy alien", although he was firmly anti-Nazi. The Government was willing to grant the release of the internee provided the Quaker group with which he was connected would sponsor, employ and maintain him. The addressee had answered Gandhiji's enquiry in this regard, explaining the group's inability to undertake such a responsibility.

504. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

April 18, 1940

CHI. MRIDULA,

I have your letter. What you have written is correct. We shall solve it on another occasion if that is necessary.

Mummy will be well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11211. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

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505. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON,
April 22, 1940

Three of your letters have remained unanswered. The reason is my helplessness.

I understand your arguments. But I stick to my position. In course of time either you will be persuaded or I shall be persuaded. I cannot advance any new argument. You just watch which way I go. I myself do not know it. I have only one guiding principle. Comprehend it. There can be mistakes in its interpretation and practice. If that is proved, it should be taken as evidence of some shortcoming in my *sadhana*. With each passing day I see it more and more clearly that non-violence cannot be cultivated in any other way.

April 24, 1940

There was an interruption after I had written the above. You must continue to write whatever comes to your mind. Do not wait for my reply.

I read your letter to Pyarelal. I myself forbade him to reply. It would only lead to unnecessary bickering and achieve nothing. You have already said what you had to say. Now let the brother and sister go their ways. I too hardly discuss our relations with him. I go my way, the brother and sister follow their own ways. We are engaged in our own work. Where is the occasion to talk about anything except the work? I would advise you to stop worrying about them. Even as it is, are you not having enough work on your hands?

I have written a letter to the Viceroy today.[1] I do not intend to send copies of it to anyone. All I would say is that you would approve it. But I may be mistaken even in that.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

506. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 21, 1940

STUPID GIRL,

What can I write to you? I know that it is very mean to go off leaving me in this condition. But if what I consider uncivilized attitude you consider duty, you must do your duty; and in that case it becomes my duty to encourage you in that. If you would listen to me, I would say that (1) you should not talk of going till you have not convinced me of your position. In other words, you must not go. And if that is not possible (2) you should not utter a word about going till the mists have rolled away. Even Mother, if she understood this, would not keep you in Delhi for a moment.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] *Vide* Vol. LXXII, pp. 21-2.

507. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
May 24, 1940

CHI. MATHURADAS,

I wrote you a letter which you have not answered.

Read what is written overleaf. It is a job for the Corporation. It can be easily done. It means protecting the cows and the poor.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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508. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
May 25, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

Your last sentence was unbecoming of you. "I do not want a relevant truth, I do not want a half-truth, I want the whole truth"— think over its meaning.

So long as you are at Sevagram the question of what your duty and mine is does not arise at all. You may well believe that you are here on my account and I may think that because you are here I should take service from you. When there is an occasion to go out, I am faced with a dilemma, not you. If, thinking otherwise, I act differently, then it is self-deception. That cannot happen in Sevagram because I am already taking service from you. If this distinction is not clear to you, let both of us leave the matter to God. When God reveals to us your or my mistake, you or I shall correct it.

I have told you that so long as the mists have not rolled away, you must stay. If you do not feel certain about it, do as you like. Do nothing under any pressure. Do only what brings you self-satisfaction. Ultimately, only what you think to be your duty would be your duty.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

509. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
May 25, 1940

STUPID GIRL,

You really are stupidity incarnate. do not understand your letter at all. How have you become a sinner because I told you an untruth? I want to keep you with me, but not by making you believe an untruth. It was due to love that I resorted to the untruth. There was attachment in that love. How are you at fault in that? If at all, it is I who should undertake a fast. But I will not do so because my untruth was not so very sinful. If you undertake a fast, you will cause me pain and add to the wrong which you are doing. If you are keen to see your mistake, abide in peace. So long as I am here, you will continue to serve. Then you will see your mistake. But if you cannot endure it, do go. One day you will discover your mistake and laugh. You have your reason for staying whether I believe in it or not. You can stay out of the Ashram if I go out and do not take you along.

Why run away now? Why are you not ashamed of running away? What did I write to hurt you? What should I write? I am ashamed of your stupidity. I should certainly fast to cure you of your stupidity. This is not tragic. It is comic.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

510. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
May 25, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

It was not a question of my being insulted. You insulted yourself. But if you are not able to see it, there is nothing I can do. I have not taken it as an insult to me. Read my words again.

I see that there is a vast difference in our outlooks. What should I do to persuade you, how can I persuade you? I can say nothing more. How is one to prove that red is red? For you it is sufficient to say that what I see as red appears yellow to you. I have expressed my feelings to you. If you cannot discover any meaning in what I say, how can I find another language to explain it ? Even when I took you along with me it was not the question. I have already explained that. The question was there even then. That is why I said that I resorted to untruth in order to keep you with me.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

511. *LETTER TO GOPAL NARAYAN SHIROMANY*

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
May 30, 1940

DEAR SHIROMANY[1],

I am able to attend to your letter only today. I found nothing wrong in your letter. Let me know the judgment in the case[2].

M. K. GANDHI

SHRI G. N. SHIROMANY
SAINIK KARYALAYA
AGRA, U. P.

From the Hindi original: C. W. 10942. Courtesy: Gopal Narayan Shiromany

512. *LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI*

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
[Before *May 31, 1940*][3]

CHI. MATHURADAS,

I have your letter. I am very happy that on the whole the burden of work on you is quite light.

I understand about ghee. You seem to be always having a tussle with Lilavati. She came here. She told me a lot of things. There is no point in narrating everything here. She said you had objected to the use of the word 'Chairman'. She also said that you lose your temper frequently. The thing about chairman has irked me.

The War is now hotting up. What no one else had ever done, Germany is doing. I am quiet. My faith in God has become stronger.

---

[1] Managing Editor of *Sainik*, Hindi daily, from 1932 to 1952

[2] Concerning the closure of Sainik Press under the Defence of India Act

[3] Inferred from the date of receipt of this letter by the addressee, i. e., May 31, 1940

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

513. LETTER TO NARANDAS GANDHI

SEGAON, WARDHA,
[*May 1940*][1]

CHI. NARANDAS,

I had got your letter. Why need you be unhappy that you lost five hundred rupees? There would have been cause for sorrow if the loss had been due to any mistake of ours. In the present case I see no mistake on your part. Your faith will bear fruit. You will get the help you need. It is better that whatever help you may get should be through Sardar.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati: C. W. 8574

514. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

June 4, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

What a girl you are! Everyone had been looking forward to welcoming you today and then came your telegram.

I passed by Ba's room after my bath. Ba asked what she should do about her cough. I said she need not worry since you would be coming today. She agreed. Then I went to my room and found your telegram.

Your arrival thus is being awaited. Yesterday your two letters came together. In one of them you have expressed some doubt as regards your examination result. May your doubt prove baseless. I am somewhat impatient to know the result.

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[1] As in the source

I shall be thankful if God takes the load off your mind. You will probably know the result while you are there. Send me a telegram if you do.

Ba's cough persists. It is mild of course. Jamnalalji has been put up here. His weight has gone down considerably. He has been put on a diet. How far he ultimately benefits remains to be seen.

I am keeping very good health. The weight has gone down. One cannot eat much in this heat.

Enclosed is a letter from Pyarelal. It was received yesterday. It is about the things you have to bring from there. There are also letters to others. I am sending them along. You will explain the mistake about the watch.

This letter will go from here on Thursday. You should get it on Friday, before you leave. Hence, I am not sending the telegram about the things Pyarelal wants.

Mahadev has not yet come.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

515. LETTER TO PREMI JAIRAMDAS

SEVAGRAM,
June 5, 1940

DEAR PREMI,

What a bad girl you are? You have not written to me for ages. What was your promise? How is Father?

Love.

BAPU

SHRI PREMIBEHN
C/O SHRI JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM
HYDERABAD, SIND

From the original: C. W. 11053. Courtesy: Arjun Jairamdas

516. LETTER TO GOPAL NARAYAN SHIROMANY

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
June 6, 1940

DEAR SHIROMANY,

I have read the judgment. You may convey my opinion to anyone about what cannot come under the purview of Defence of India Rules. But what is the good of giving it to the Press? If there is any advantage in it, do explain it to me.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI SHIROMANY
SAINIK OFFICE
AGRA, U. P.

From the Hindi original: C. W. 10943. Courtesy: Gopal Narayan Shiromany

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517. LETTER TO C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
June 7, 1940

DEAR FRIEND,

I was glad to have your letter. Who says you are old? And of course I am young enough to be your son. I am sorry I cannot move out. What is poor B. P. . . .[1] doing now? C. D. is suspended.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

SHRI C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR
THE ARAM
SALEM

From a photostat: C. Vijayaraghavachariar Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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[1] Illegible in the source

518. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

[June 11, 1940][1]

I am convinced that your good lies in your joining college. God will provide the funds for completing the medical course. Otherwise neither you nor I shall find any peace of mind. You do have that capability and you have the will. There is certainly nothing wrong about it. Hence, you should start tomorrow. Ba's trouble is only temporary.

From a copy of the Gujarati: C. W. 11285

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519. LETTER TO PYARELAL

June 14, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

A. S. has written me a number of letters about the talks she had with you. She has also given me the gist of a letter you wrote to her in Urdu. I have not understood much of it. I have written to her to that effect and stopped further discussion. But it would be nice if you could write about it. What happened? In any case you were to write about A. S.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] From the reference to the addressee leaving for Bombay "tomorrow", namely, on June 12, 1940; *vide* Vol. LXXII, pp. 171 and 173.

520. LETTER TO PYARELAL

June 15, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

What you have written is certainly useful. That means that the blame I put on A. S. was not justified.

Then she said that the papers fell out from her Koran. They were saved from falling into somebody's hands. What did those papers contain? Into whose hands could they have fallen? Or have I understood it all wrong?

On the whole in your opinion she is a saintly woman and I am being unfair to her.

BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

521. LETTER TO PYARELAL

June 16, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

A. S. says that you are still not careful about your food. This is not good. Relieve me of this anxiety. It will end the trouble if you eat whatever A. S. cooks and as often as she cooks.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

522. LETTER TO PYARELAL

June 16, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

A. S. categorically says that she never told you that she did not tell me. Anyway, she told me and I wrote to you only after she had told me. She said it with such pain that I asked her why she herself did not feed you. I did not want to force her. I would never do it. I would only wish that you eat your food regularly and regain your failing health.

As for my words, no doubt should have arisen in your mind at all. Sushila had already told me. But since I know that you do not approve of Sushila telling me anything about you, I usually do not act on what she says. If A. S. had not told me, I would not have told you anything even though I would have felt upset.

There was no need for me to comment on that letter of yours. I was not surprised by what you wrote. Where is the need for me to show 'delicacy'[1] in my dealings with you? If I come to know something, I would give my reactions. What was your last sentence? 'Is it about her whom you consider a saintly woman?' That is my question. Even though I am aware of her many qualities, I have my doubts about her being a saintly woman. She eats herself away. I have already told her that. I would feel happy if you see her as a saintly woman. In that case I will try to see her as such. I think now all the questions have been dealt with.

BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The English word has been used in the source.

523. NOTE TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

June 16, 1940

It is strange. How sensitive and suspicious you are! On such occasions silence irks. But for my silence there would have been no misunderstanding. Still I cherish it. Gradually, as we become more generous towards one another this sort of misunderstanding will cease. Silence has many other advantages that are unique.

I told you not to touch the file because I had arranged the papers in my own way. I did not want anyone to disturb them. I cannot stand any interference on Sundays and other such days. I do the same with everyone.

I wrote out the addresses myself because I could do that quicker. I had to send the letter to Valjibhai in any case. And before I could enclose with it one to Vaidya I had to write it and take out Vaidya's address. Rather than explain all this to you, it was better that I wrote everything myself. Yes, you did offer to write. I did not respond because I did not want to waste time writing down my response or making signs.

As for Rajkumari's article I did not want to take it out because she desires to send it elsewhere. Until I examine it from this angle I do not want to remove it from my file. There was no consideration of whether you saw the article or not. There was no question of stopping you from seeing Rajkumari's article. It was you who raised such a question. Is everything clear now?

BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

524. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

SEVAGRAM,
June 24, 1940

CHI. LILA,

I have received your letters. You have settled well. Have you met Shankar? He will be of maximum help in the matter of books. Such books are available even second-hand. We shall try from here of course. Sushila does not have any. Continue to study patiently. Meet Radha. She must be having some books. Do not hesitate to go to her. Today Sushi's tonsils were removed. Mahadev, etc., are at the hospital.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI LILAVATIBEHN ASAR
KANJIKHETSI KANYA CHHATRALAYA
65 MINT ROAD
BOMBAY FORT

From the Gujarati original: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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525. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

ON THE WAY,
July 8, 1940

STUPID GIRL,

I cannot put you out of my mind. I shall certainly hope that you will arrive on the 24th or the 25th. Did you read what Bharatanand wrote at the end of his letter? He was right. I wish you to come out only if you can do so with your mind at peace. That is your duty. Come only if you can come as Mahadev, Kanu and Pyarelal came. My last sentence should be carefully considered. Devdas and Ramdas are my sons. But they are quite apart. You are a daughter. You will always be to me as they are. Though remaining staying away you will have with me the same sweet relationship that Devdas and Ramdas have. But if you stay with me, you have to stay on my terms. Forget the past. Think afresh, think with a calm mind. It does not behove you to lay down conditions. I cannot afford to keep you on conditions. The question is not whether you are deserving or undeserving. Surely Devdas and Ramdas are not undeserving? It is a matter of temperament. If you cannot come as Mahadev and others came, does it mean that you cannot come when you wish? Do not feel upset in any way.

If you are definitely not coming, I do not intend keeping the dispensary in its present form. I have set it up for you. Unless I get another doctor to settle here the dispensary will be of no use. I cannot afford to have another doctor here.

I shall enclose with this the Gujarati matter that is ready. Other matter is being got ready.

I have myself made the thumb worse. It is now throbbing. I hope it does not become septic. I shall bandage it. You will keep writing to me. Make the *Harijan Sevak* beautiful. Do not feel unhappy.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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526. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

July 8, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

One Gujarati article at least is going with this. I hope to send the rest from Wardha. The thumb-nail keeps reminding me of my foolishness. It troubles me occasionally.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

527. LETTER TO PADMAVATI

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
July 9, 1940

CHI. PADMAVATI,

God has at last blessed you with a son. May he have a long life and may he bring credit to the family. I hope you are keeping good health.

Blessings from
BAPU

From a photostat of the Gujarati: G. N. 11399

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528. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON,
Via WARDHA,
July 10, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

You will have duly received all the articles. In case you are pressed for time, I have sent Pyarelal's translation to help you. Had it been your translation, I would have corrected it more carefully because I want to teach you how to translate well. I went through Pyarelal's translation to see if the meaning had been properly conveyed. I might have made the language simpler or better at places but you can attend to that there.

You are free to write to me anything you choose. That is also my demand. You were forbidden only for that particular day. What dreams? I shall not worry about you if you become hale and hearty. I shall take all possible care of myself. The weight today was 111½ lb.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

529. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
July 15, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have received your letter of complaint. You had a right to hope. In fact I wrote you a letter before I reached Mathura. But Pyarelal did not like it. His argument convinced me, so I cancelled the letter and asked him to tear it up. That is why Mathura was missed. After that I wrote three letters between Itarsi and Wardha. So you did not hope in vain, did you? Admit it. I would forget writing to you only if I forgot you. You are always before my eyes. Pyarelal does try to make up for your absence, but how can he do it? Where would he find a hand like yours? He sleeps even closer to me than you did. But who would be jealous of him? However, I have not regained that fearlessness I had with you. Pyarelal does almost everything you did. I am looking after my health. Ba is well.

You are free to write to me anything you want. I shall wait for you on the 24th. My order stands. But my order is meaningless. Follow the guidance of God. I can wish for nothing except your well-being.

Take care of yourself, will you? It will be good both for you and for Mother if you return the food she may bring. Sensible children never succumb to the blind love of their parents. If you return it once, she will not express her love in this undesirable way again.

I am personally seeing to it that the articles are sent to you on time. Three are being sent today. Mahadev sent you his Gujarati article yesterday. I shall go through what has come from you today. As you might have guessed, I have written a lot today.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

530. TELEGRAM TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

WARDHAGANJ,
July 17, 1940

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
LADY HARDINGE COLLEGE
NEW DELHI

PATIENTS WELL. TAKING REGULAR INJECTIONS.[1] LOVE.

BAPU

From the original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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531. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
July 17, 1940

CHI SUSHILA,

How is it that you do not receive my letters? I take great care in writing to you. I have sent a telegram today regarding the patients. They go for their vaccinations. When I heard about a jackal having bitten them I turned to look for you and realized that you were in Delhi! Following your advice I have sent one translated article direct to V[iyogi] H[ari]. I have received the second part of your translation today. I can see that you will have to spend considerable time in this work. So I will send it next week. Take suitable matter for the next week from the English articles. It is impossible to take everything in the same week when the writing is repeated.

I do not like your having dreams at night. They should become less frequent and disappear.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] A rabid jackal had bitten five persons at the Ashram in their sleep — J. P. Bhansali, Munnalal Shah, Narayan Desai and two policemen.

532. LETTER TO PYARELAL

July 18, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have understood your experience of that night. It pained me. I do not like dreams at all. But when some action takes place in a dream it is worse. For instance, it is one thing to dream of eating. But quite another when somebody really eats in a dream; it is definitely a bad thing. It would be the end result of a particular habit. Such a thing happened in my case. That is why I asked you if you had seen any gesture on my part. How would it have any adverse effect on you? You must really feel pity for me. If you did not see anything wrong in it, it is because of your softness for me. But I must beware of myself. However close you may sleep by my side, why should it harm me? I would expect you to see if there was any defect in me. I would be committing a crime if I hid even a single defect of mine from all of you who are living close to me. Hence, you do not have to change anything.

You feel my love only now. But I am not doing anything new. When Sushila was here I used to get her to do any work I wanted. I used to get details about your diet, etc. I used to see about your bed, etc. Occasionally I used to direct her where and how your bed should be made. When Sushila left, I had already decided to entrust her chores to you. Hence I am not doing anything extra or anything new. You of course see it as something different. Let the feeling persist. If and when Sushila comes she will take charge of them. Is it going to diminish my love for you in any way?

I do not want to force you. I am glad that you have given up fasting on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Since you have done it for my sake, you are getting the merit of fasting and in addition you are giving satisfaction to me. Had you been fasting, I would not have been able to take from you as much work as I wish. Whatever you may think, you would not be able to accomplish as much work as I may desire. Hence I would insist that since you have given up observing fasts, you should leave it at that. Now that I have said this much, you may do whatever brings peace to your mind. Actually, you should find peace in satisfying me. That will cure your blankness of mind and also enable you to avoid the mistakes that tend to get repeated.

You will now have understood my not being afraid of Sushila and being afraid of you. She has experienced everything I have in me. Even though Sushila has entered late in my life, she is more absorbed in me. Hence I would even make her sleep by my side without fear. I believe that she can forestall any mistake I may make. In my view, contact with her has brought greater purity to me. However much I may try, I cannot take with you the same liberty as I may take with Sushila. This has been in my nature right from childhood. Usually, a man can take greater liberty with another man. The opposite is true in my case. I have felt it is only correct. Whether or not it is really correct can perhaps be known only after my death. I am saying 'perhaps', because who can know it? If I can become pure in this life morning, noon and evening then I can say it for certain. Right now, I can only surmise. In spite of my very intimate contacts with women no woman can say that she has been harmed by contact with me or been prey to lustful thoughts. This has been a matter of great consolation to me.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

533. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
July 18, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. You must have got my letter of yesterday. The jackal bite patients are well. There were seven vaccinations today. Kumarappa[1] has had a little relapse. His vision was blurred and then lost altogether. This lasted for about an hour.

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[1] J. C. Kumarappa

He remembers you. He will write to you. You should treat the talk about my going that side as mere gossip.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

534. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
July 20, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your two letters. I of course try to send you the matter as early as possible. Satya must have completely recovered. Kumarappa's blood-pressure has become stable now. It had gone up to 170/120. I am considering what I should do. Write to me if you have any suggestion to make. Bablo is down with a 104° fever. It is the second day today. The fever has not come down. That is why the vaccination was not given yesterday.

I have freed you from bondage. The rest of it is true. What is the point of arguing? You must follow God's guidance. I see from what you write that unless you change your mind you will not come on the 24th or till I change my mind. I mention this because I have to consider the situation here.

If Punjab is given ten rupees, the other three should also be given the same. That is why I have not been insisting. I am considering how the additional two rupees can be given.

You will remember the knife I had. I do not find it in the wooden box. Did you take it out in Delhi ? Is it likely that it was left behind in Delhi ? How to find it out ?

Pyarelal, I would say, is eating quite well. Let us see what God wills. According to my last article, I must pass the test here, is that not so?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

535. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
July 20, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

How careless you are! Three mistakes in your letter to Kumarappa? How many times have I corrected "answere"? There should be no 'e' at the end. "Alltogether" is 'altogether'. There has to be only one 'l'. One 'c' in "reccord". You must make full use of the dictionary. I cannot tolerate wrong English spelling and bad handwriting. You can write correct spelling if you are careful. You can improve your handwriting if you are careful.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal [Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

536. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
July 21, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

Your long translation is going with this. It has taken me more than two hours to correct it. I had to do it with great care and attention. You must have followed my corrections. Your scrawl shows haste, so it was difficult reading it through. You will realize that in many places you could have written more clearly. It was a difficult translation to do, and the English was so involved that it was not easy to grasp the ideas. Considering this, I think your translation was good. Had you been more careful, you could have made a still better job of it. I have written you two letters today.

Bablo is not having any fever today. Two others, Keshu and Appu, are also down. They themselves are responsible for it. It is malaria only.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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537. LETTER TO PREMI JAIRAMDAS

SEVAGRAM,
Via WARDHA (C. P.),
July 24, 1940

MY DEAR PREMI,

What are you doing in Hyderabad? . . .[1] that Father is quite restored now. He is not working, is he? Do write to me something about the situation. Love to you all.

BAPU

SHRI PREMIBEHN JAIRAMDAS
BHAI MULCHAND LANE
HYDERABAD, SIND

From a photostat: C. W. 10160. Courtesy: Arjun Jairamdas

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538. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
July 25, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. I understand about the patients. I see your point about the dispensary too. Even as your view becomes stronger, mine does too. My mind will never accept that I have let you down. I claim to have actually saved you when you felt you were being let down. I have saved you like a mother saves her child. The child would think with irritation that the mother was stopping its progress. But you are and are not a child.

---

[1] Indistinct in the source

Hence, we shall call it a difference of opinion and pull the curtain down over the affair. Moreover, in spite of my explaining it you refuse to be convinced that none of those staying with me have any certainty of tenure. I can let any of them go whenever I like. If any of them assume any such right, it is a mistake on their part. Even though some of them may have been with me from the beginning, it is not by virtue of any such right. I may have acted as though they had this right, but there has been a reason for it. But why go into that discussion now? I am accepting your decision. Come here when you cannot help it. You do have a place here. I shall welcome you. I do not wish to make you unhappy by dragging you here against your will.

I am not able to send you the English matter early because I have not been able to get it ready. I see from Pyarelal's letter that you wish to have the Tata scholarship (or something) if you can get it. It would be nice if Mahadev could do something. Then why do you not let Mahadev talk straight to you? You take from me whatever money you need. Or I shall arrange to raise the amount. This should be the easiest way for you.

Your health has deteriorated. It is my wish and demand that you should improve it. It can be easily done.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

539. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

SEVAGRAM,
July 27, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

You write that you neither have altercations with anyone there nor have any cause to feel unhappy. I think the reason for this is that while here you were not in your own milieu, there you are. You are in a place which you desired and which you have found with your own enterprise. Here you were brought only by circumstances. Therefore, you are in your natural situation there. The situation being unnatural for you here, there was constant friction, or so you thought. This is true not of you alone but of everyone. As I think on it, I see that those who have not absorbed the atmosphere here are constantly in conflict. The atmosphere here cannot be said to be natural for anyone. It is what it is. Hence, only he who has learnt to master the atmosphere or wants to do so can live here comfortably and grow. There is no particular purpose in my writing this. As a doctor, you must be concerned with such matters and so I have placed before you my view for your consideration.

Kumarappa is coming today to stay here. This change has been made following your letter. It is intended to provide him rest. He could go to Coimbatore, but I felt that if he stayed here, I could see to things myself and when necessary consult you. If he does not maintain good health here, we shall have to think of an alternative. He does miss you. He asked about your coming again yesterday. I informed him that you were tied up there till the middle of September, and the next programme was not definite. He just listened. Others are also asking.

Bablo's fever is still persisting. He is being treated only for malaria. He took 15 grains of quinine yesterday. Kesho and Appu had a severe attack of malaria. Now they are better. They have not resumed work yet. Abha is down.

Three English articles will be sent to you today. I took up *Harijan* work since I have been able to avoid writing letters.

Blessings from

BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

540. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
July 29, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

It is my feeling that if Mahadev comes to know about it, he will certainly want to try and get you the scholarship. But I shall not go into that. In writing to you about it it had never been my intention to hurt you. The same was the case about your staying here. I have understood your point. I admit my mistake. The best thing is for you to forget Sevagram and concentrate on your studies. Your peace and your good lie in staying on there and pursuing your studies. Things which you have missed you have missed. It is futile to weep over them. In their place the experience that you have acquired in life I am sure will not go waste. If I had not interfered when you were getting that post, you would have enjoyed financial ease. How can we know what God ordains through your present hardship?

I am taking the maximum care of Pyarelal. What you are saying is correct. God will protect him. What can I do?

I cannot understand how you received the articles late last week. They were posted from here in time. But in all our calculations we have to remember that this is Sevagram.

I do wish to distribute the translation work for the *Harijan Savak* when Rajkumari comes. That will solely depend on your convenience and willingness. I will endeavour to send you selected articles. Would you like that? English or Gujarati? I gather from Pyarelal's letter that you have a lot of your own reading to do. Will not the translation work be a hindrance? If it adds to your joy and does not become a burden on your mind, I should like you to continue the work.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

I shall do something about Punjab. What my position is you will see from my articles. I do not harbour anything in my mind.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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541. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
July 31, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

Your three letters have come together. I accept your advice that I should not go into what has happened and whether you should come here.

You have analysed what I wrote to you and asked my opinion about it. What opinion can I give? I see difference of opinion in every sentence. There is no basis for your conclusions because what you only suppose I know and the knowledge is in contradiction to your conclusion. What is the solution when you cannot see at all what is clear to me as daylight? In fact it amounts to this, that your mind does not trust my evidence. Pyarelal's diagnosis I consider wholly wrong. I can hurt colleagues and the entire world for the sake of truth. You yourself say that I changed course when your defences were beginning to weaken. That shows that there were no external causes for that change. I have surely given no importance to what Devdas has said. That is his charge against me. Thus, in everything I see that you and I hold different views. What can be done under the situation? Hence I advise you to calm down. Forget that letter I wrote you. Forget also this letter. Let us leave the whole episode to God.

I understand about the articles. You should get the changes made in the articles corrected there. Consider yourself how it is to be done. We shall not publish the matter relating to the society. It is not necessary. I have sent the next article after correcting it. I had to hurry a little.

Have you written to Ludhiana? If you have not written, there is no need.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

542. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
August 1, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

It would be better if instead of conveying to me your thoughts after amending them, you expressed them as they are. That way I would be able to understand you better. It is only right that you should come only when all your three conditions can be met. But why should you worry about conditions? You will come only when you cannot help coming. Then there will be no room left for any conditions. At the moment we seem to be going in different directions. So there is no question of your coming. You are required there every moment. you can live in peace and happiness only where you believe that you are required. You like my company. That is something to be cherished. It cannot be acquired. If we have it, we take it as God's grace. If not, we shall be content with merely desiring it. I always wish to have Manilal's company. But if I call him here, it will be only at the cost of his duty, won't it?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

543. LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

[After *August 3, 1940*][1]

DEAR DR. GOPICHAND,

Please have this immediately investigated and justice done to the poor Chamars, if the facts are true.[2]

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[1] The letter has been written on the reverse of another dated August 3, 1940 from one Satyanarayan Saraf.

[2] Satyanarayan Saraf had written to Gandhiji that the Chamars of the village Moth in Hissar had sunk a well for their use which they intended to make *pucca*, but that the caste men of the village had taken away the bricks and the cement and filled up the well. He had sought Gandhiji's help in the matter.

You will write to the correspondent. I have not.

Yours,
BAPU

From the original: Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

544. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
August 4, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

What a long letter and what a test! Had you been here, I would have caught you by the ears and even given you a couple of slaps. But you being far away, I shall only reply to you at leisure. I have already replied to your letter. If I had my way, I would drag you here by the ears. But because I had wanted you to come only when you wished to come and when I accepted your conditions, I wrote that you should forget Sevagram. On my conditions you can come even today. But you will not follow my conditions and I do not understand your conditions sufficiently to accept them. That is why I say that you should forget Sevagram. There at least you have your work. I have got my work here which you never made your own. That is why I wrote what I did. And when you will not come because of your lack of understanding or imperfect understanding, where is the question of your being separated from me? Why should you give up the translation work for that reason? "How stupid the mind! It discards the divine stream of devotion to Rama and founds its hopes on dew drops."

You have got to do the translation. Do you not know that I have taken away that work from others because I depended on you? Even if I send the translations from here, the responsibility remains yours. I keep asking people here how your translations read. Balwantsinha says they are crude. Mahadev and Bablo say there are quite a few mistakes. Both father and son are studying Hindi quite well. Hence, you have got to take a lot of trouble. I do not know if you can spare that much time. You must think it over. I have a feeling that

Viyogiji[1] is not taking interest in the *Harijan Sevak* now. It that be the case, even you will be in trouble. You should meet him from time to time. You should find out who carries on the work in his absence. I have thus no intention at all of taking away the responsibility of the [*Harijan Sevak* from you. Yes, I am certainly thinking about shifting the *Harijan Sevak*.[2] It may be brought here or printed at Poona. If that comes about and if you are determined not to come here, the beautiful relationship we have will certainly come to an end. It is beautiful because there is no opportunity for any friction and you are not too closely connected with my ideas. But if all this comes to an end I shall put the entire blame on you. That is the sum and substance of all my letters. I am trying to absorb you in me but what can I do if you keep running away from me and put the blame on me?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Musuem and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

545. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
August 5, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I shall reply to your long letter when I have some free time. This is merely to tell you that in my opinion you should accept a job if one comes your way. I want you here for the sake of my work. This may include your taking care of my body too. I can see that that is not acceptable to you. I see that you will come only to serve me as a doctor and if I accept you in that capacity and others stop their opposition to this. This is asking for the impossible. According to my condition, you can come whenever you can make it. The cards are in your hands, not mine.

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[1] Viyogi Hari, editor of *Harijan Sevak*

[2] *Vide* Vol. LXXII, pp. 438-9.

Bablo has corrected one of your translations. I have found the changes he has made very good. There were some outright mistakes. The other translation is better. But it has things one can do without. I have got it corrected with a view to helping you. I am sending whatever is ready today.

Mirabehn said you were looking disturbed. Absent-minded was the word she had used. You are still lean and weak. This fault should be remedied.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

546. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
August 8, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I am enclosing two more articles with this. Two have been posted at Nagpur. Thus, you will be receiving four articles together.

You must be at ease. It is not raining here right now. Everyone is in good health. Shakaribehn[1] did come but is going back today. Anand has again fallen ill. Sharada cannot look after her children alone.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Shakaribehn C. Shah

547. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
August 8, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

1. You did take interest in Sevagram, but you did not consider it your duty like your work there. Your heart was not in Sevagram. It was wherever I was.

2. Conflicts do not arise overnight. Nothing would have happened if you had not regarded it as conflict. You made a mountain out of a molehill without seeing or listening and without paying attention to my letters.

3. What I have said is a cruel, stark truth. Your statement that the old do not let the young have their way is far from true. Had your observation been correct, the Ashram would not have continued to grow at such a pace as it is doing.

4. I have not raised you high. Nor have I pulled you down. But you are so touchy that you did not hesitate even being unfair to me. Bapu has not changed but you saw him changed. It is another matter that you forgave him out of generosity.

5. There was jealousy indeed, but it was not of you. Had you understood this much, there would have been no need for you to suffer as you did.

6. Pyarelal says that you have understood it all wrong. But if Pyarelal really believes what you have told him, then he does not know me at all. Bapu's entire life has been spent in coping with opposition—internal and external, never in submitting to it. I have always preferred losing colleagues rather than wrongly submitting.

7. I changed my attitude, when protests were ceasing. Does it not show that it had not been in any way related to the protests?

8. But I do not agree that I changed my attitude. I have proved to you that I explained the truth. I claim that my attitude has remained unchanged.

9. This is true.

10. But he who regards me as the centre, must consider himself safe. Instead of taking that view, you followed your own mind and then felt puzzled. This much in reply to your letter of 29-7-1940.

Now for the letter of 2-8-1940.

1. 2. 3. If your experience till the time of my going to Calcutta was sweet, you must accept that if it turned bitter later you should have put up with it. You could not do so because you never considered Sevagram your field of action and field of duty. Your field of action was only I, which was wrong in itself. I must never become the field of activity for anyone. The cause of envy lay in this fact, not outside it.

4. It is not true that I had raised you high.

5. The reply has been given above.

The rest is nothing new.

I hope you will be able to read this.

How can I expect that my reply will satisfy you? I shall be content if you can only accept that we are considering the same thing from different points of view. But forget all this; start afresh. Not for my sake but for the sake of my work. Come whenever you can decide to come. Right now you are in your field of duty. You are well trained for it. Go on with it. Later on you can come if you think it proper to come. So long as our view-points are different, you will not find peace even if you come. Pyarelal will explain this better.

In your absence I cannot keep the dispensary in its present shape. It is your thing. Now that you have gone, I cannot bear the sight of it. But I cannot bear it either that you should return merely for the sake of the dispensary. I had and have altogether another use for you. It may include the dispensary. But that is a different matter. You need not feel miserable that we had a dispensary and now it may be closed down. I would not hesitate to set up and let go such things for your sake. That is how I am made. I have always incurred such expenses for those I like. All I want is your good, be it anywhere.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

548. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
August 14, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. What should I write to you? You have ready answers to all questions. If we see the same thing from the same point of view, our perceptions will be similar. But if we see from opposite points of view, our perceptions would never be the same, and each would firmly stand by his own perception. That is the case with us. God is between us. Let us be guided by Him. The wonderful thing is that while I admit only one sentence, you demand the same sentence. You say that I am putting you in the same category as Mahadev, etc. I say that I have not thought about you in any other way. But that is not sufficient for you. You yourself would test me whether I treated you as I would Mahadev, and if I failed in the test you would desert me. It is surprising that you do not laugh at such a demand on your part. But your mind does not let you understand or perceive anything straight. Under such circumstances I would only say that I have no doubt given you what you asked. Come when you realize this. Why should you be concerned whether the dispensary exists or not? If it is not there, it will be set up if you desire it when you come. Surely you would not be coming because of the dispensary or on the condition that it should be in existence? I see that my mind rebels against it. The dispensary without you, the very sight of it pains me. The dispensary was set up for your sake. I believed that you would get some satisfaction out of it. What could be more tragic than that that very dispensary became the provocation to make you run away from here? And now you tell me that if I close down the dispensary, you hope to pay for the expenses incurred. Patience! May you have a lot of money. I shall not hesitate to accept whatever you send me out of it. I have not written all this to obtain any reply from you. Nothing would be achieved by indulging in agruments. I think it would be appropriate to close this chapter. Time will do its work.

The arrangement about the *Harijan Sevak* is that Pyarelal will send the Hindustani translations of English matter and you will be translating the Gujarati into Hindi. Rajkumari and Mahadev will translate the Gujarati matter into English. This is the present arrangement.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

549. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
August 19, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

What a girl you are! You are taking the whole blame on yourself. Would I be taking such pains over you if I was dissatisfied with your translations? Would the *Harijan Sevak* be shifted from there because of such dissatisfaction? It would be like killing a buffalo to make a leather thong. If I am dissatisfied, why should I not withdraw the translation work from you and give it to someone else? There are more facilities for printing in Poona and there is the temptation to make *Harijan Sevak* more attractive. Its circulation is only nominal. Hariji himself writes that it can flourish only if it is shifted to Poona. We have none to take charge there. Ultimately if it has to be shifted, on your account I shall really be sad to shift it. But if it becomes a duty to shift it, I will do it notwithstanding the distress doing so will cause me. We can hope that by the time *Harijan Sevak* is shifted to Poona, you will have arrived here. The people connected with [*Harijan*] *Sevak* came here. I told them that the idea for improvement was yours. There is a letter from Soli saying that he is willing to pay half the expense. I have written to say that you are not here and the improvements will be carried out if you come back.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

550. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

August 26, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have received no letter from you for a week. Pyarelal says that he has not shown me some of your letters. I did not have the time and since there was no letter from you, I did not write. Today I saw your letter to Pyarelal. There is no limit to your foolishness. I shall not press you to come. If you do come in your present state, you will not feel happy here. What you ask is a thing you should not ask and even if it were possible for me to give it I should not give it. So you may take the chapter as closed. When you find that you cannot help coming to me without laying down preconditions, rush to me and become one with me.

You must live there in total detachment. Then only will you be happy. When you go home you should go as an outsider or as a doctor. Do not involve yourself in the cares of the household. It would be best if you could start earning. You can then satisfy Mother's hunger. You have no special needs. Give up the temptation of sending your savings to me. You can be absorbed in many places if you take up a job. By refusing to accept my help, you are not earning merit but incurring sin. Are you ashamed to be known as my daughter? Lilavati introduces herself as my daughter. Your false pride is eating me.

Mohanlal and Shakuntala should live away from Mother. Mother's place is here. Parnerkar's mother had been staying here. She will be coming again. Mahadev's mother comes and goes. She is his step-mother. Why should not Pyarelal's mother live with Pyarelal? I am prepared to provide a separate kitchen for her. Thereby, the question of expenses will be solved. Arguments will come to an end. And the meanness resulting from lack of money will disappear. This is a natural arrangement. Mother will be able to pay occasional visits to Mohanlal as a guest. You will be relieved of a heavy burden. If you become calm, everything will be well soon. If I remain alive, in course of time you are bound to become one with me. I am in no hurry about it. You should not be in a hurry either.

Enclosed is a list of mistakes in *Harijan Sevak* prepared by Munnalal. The first mistake is obvious and it is bad. I have hurriedly glanced through other errors. Some of them may not be errors. The rest are insignificant.

Harijan Sevak will probably be shifted to Poona next week. Chandrashankar[1] will arrive there on Saturday to make arrangements. Rest assured that my decisions are likely to have more knowledge behind them than yours. You will feel calm if you have such confidence. This does not mean that you should rush here. But it means that you should become humble. If you have humility in you, you should never have any doubts concerning my decisions. You are free to ask questions. But you must have trust in my answers. Think over this.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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551. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
August 26, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. You have really lost your senses in this matter. You ought to trust to my wisdom. You are unnecessarily torturing yourself by imagining things. Who says that you are disqualified? If you were disqualified, how would I say from here that you were qualified? Why does this not satisfy you? You would be living here on the same conditions as Mahadev, Chimanlal, Krishnachandra, etc. It is the height of your stupidity that you are making a distinction between Mahadev and Chimanlal. You should come out of that pit of folly. I would have liked, when I go to Simla, to take with me Rajkumari's black clock which used to be kept on the wall. I had given it either to you or to Pyarelal for safe-keeping. Do you remember anything about it?

I have already written about *Harijan Sevak*.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Chandrashankar Shukla

552. LETTER TO PYARELAL

August 26, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

With regard to Sushila, I know you and I hold different views. I consider the letter I am writing today as brimming with love. Very often love appears harsher than even a thunderbolt. It is not less love for that. For in reality it is as soft as a flower. In my view, Sushila is going completely astray and making herself unnecessarily miserable. But I am willing to abide by your wish. Should I stop writing to her? One thing is certain : that either you should guide her or I should do so. Between the two of us, she will be crushed. It may be as well if you go to Delhi for a couple of days.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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553. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
August 28, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have been awake today since 1.00 a. m. I woke up Pyarelal at 3 o'clock and asked him to get me some paper. This is the first letter. You are not the only cause for this sleeplessness. My other jobs are also the reason. You being the chief reason, I am taking up your letter first.

Pyarelal gave me your letters yesterday. This is in reply to those letters. My programme of action is uncertain. I do not know whether I shall fight or resort to a fast. One of the two courses appears certain. You must be aware of this. You should not make any changes in your programme on that account.

The fact that the dispensary drove you from Sevagram means that had there been no dispensary and had you not been the resident doctor, the question of your walking or not walking with me would not have arisen.

It is not right that you should compare me with Mahadev and Devdas. In the first place, you are doing gross injustice to Mahadev. He has no hatred towards you. Only he is not any more under your spell. For this I hold myself responsible. It has been to the good of you both. I am firmly convinced that Mahadev still wishes you well. If possible, he would serve you and do it whole-heartedly. You do not know him. Your impression about Devdas is correct. But if he has contempt it is not for you but for me. Behind it is his deep knowledge. But my position is not to be equated with that of either. For the change you find in my behaviour is solely for your good, for truth. How stupid and unthinking of you that you should see displeasure in my well-meant behaviour. Get rid of such a thought. It does not behove you. It is wrong. There is no displeasure at all in the step I have taken. It is possible that I may have been unfair knowingly or unknowingly. I see in it only the purest justice and purest love. I would cease to be a satyagrahi if it were otherwise. I would be disqualified for conducting the struggle.

I shall not force you to come to Sevagram. Your good lies in being away. Your being a doctor is a restraining factor. I often feel it is your duty as a doctor to be at Sevagram. So long as I do not cease to see your usefulness as a doctor for Sevagram, I cannot take you around with me as I do Mahadev. If I do that, it would appear to me against my duty. You hold the contrary view. Hence, so long as we hold opposite views about duty, how can your talents be put to use? How can I allow it that your medical services should not at all be made available to others? I feel your need every moment. Ba yearns for you. She thinks of you when someone falls ill. Hence, whatever I may have said earlier, I clearly see your place is essentially in the Ashram. Unless you see it as clearly as the reflection in a mirror, your coming here will be meaningless. Once this point is clearly understood, it would be another matter if I take you out for my sake or even your sake.

I do hope that you will get a job. Concentrate on your studies. What would be the value of a degree obtained wihout hard work? You ask me what you should do. This is my reply. You will have peace only when you become a full-fledged doctor. That will be your happiness.

I abide by what I said about Mother. You should forget everything else.

Pyarelal and I have come to an agreement that only I should guide you, not he. He would not give you any independent guidance. He is incapable of doing that. How can he guide you when he himself is in need of guidance? Then, why do you always expect letters from him? What can he write? At least he can write nothing concerning you. Should he always give you the news about the Ashram? I can send that even through somebody else. I advise you to stop altogether writing him confidential letters. Write to me when it is necessary. I consider it your great fault that you preserve the letters. Whatever the nature of letters that might have been written, why should they be preserved? Dwelling in the past like that hampers human progress. Even Pyarelal has that bad habit. I shall make him give it up. Whatever letters you write to me, I will read and destroy. I will not give them back to Pyarelal. I will not send them back to you. I would advise you to destroy my letters too. You may preserve the letters in which I may have written something important or valuable. But it would be wrong to preserve the letters which you have not liked or in which you have seen only my faults. We should not be obsessed with the faults of our elders or dear ones. Nor should we preserve their references. Now the prayer bell has gone. May God always protect you.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

554. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

August 31, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

Pyarelal gave me a letter from you the day before yesterday. What a letter! Why such doubt about me? There was no condemnation in what I said about you. There was only love in it. I have not shown your letters to anyone. No one can read my letters because from my hands they go straight to Pyarelal. In my whole life I do not remember to have taken as much care about anyone's letters as I do about yours and my replies to them. I am not even conscious of having mentioned any conditions. I have not even given you a categorical reply about your coming. The clearest reply I gave to Lilavati Munshi's question yesterday: "She had not come to settle here permanently. The dispensary was only a plaything for her. She is expecting to get a job. If she gets it, she will not be coming at least for the present. If I know that she is not coming at all then I shall have to consider what to do about the dispensary." I cannot undertake that Pyarelal will write to you. In my view, he should not write to you at all. You must be content with what I write.

The *Harijan Sevak* will be shifted to Poona. I shall be happy if you can write something original from there for the edition from Poona. There are ample subjects. If you wrote a series of articles on sanitation, etc., in beautiful Hindi you would refresh your knowledge and improve your skill as a writer.

I did not like the doctor's letter to you. Had there been enough time for consultation, I would have drafted a stern reply and made you withdraw your application. I cannot bear to see that you have become helpless. Where is any prestige in a job obtained in such a manner? But what is done is done.

I may have to go to Simla.

I am sending Lilavati's letter for you to read.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

555. LETTER TO PYARELAL

September 2, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

You are caught up in your own verbiage. This is no time to bathe me in your tears. And what do your tears avail, save that at the time of my need you will be of no use to me. Is that a sign of your desire to be moulded by me? All your ideas are true, but where is your acuity? Why could you not understand that if I entrusted the matter to A. S. and to Munnalal there must have been some purpose behind it? If you wanted to make a copy you should at least have told me. The copy that you made was useless. You made a better one only when you took it up as a challenge. What you could do as a challenge, you were not prepared to do for my sake. You refused point blank. I thought you would act as I directed. You first agreed and then wriggled out of it. Is that what you call faith? You have read that faith gains in strength. But you did not let your faith advance even one step. And now I have absolutely no idea what you intend to do.

Now I come to what you write about Sushila. Your defence has no basis. Why do you not understand that the reason that Sushila has for staying with me is that she is a doctor. But her medical knowledge could be my undoing, because, if I acknowledged it I would pass from God's hands into Sushila's. As for her affection, what shall I say? She would probably work on my conditions for 359 days, but if on one day her own conditions are not met, she would not serve me, she would not work for me. What does she care how much I have to involve myself with the patients while she is away? But what is the use of bemoaning my lot before my own sons and daughters? I shall endure what comes. I see that she even resents my guiding her. I wish you would yourself guide her. She has infinite faith in you. Her good lies in being guided by you because, should you stray in guiding her, her faith will correct you.

My guidance, even if it is a hundred per cent sound, will not benefit her.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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556. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
September 4, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

These corrections are for your amusement. And another thing for your amusement : nobody saw the translation of what Mahadevbhai wrote about Poona published in *Harijan Sevak*. Rajkumari and Bablo laboriously completed it and despatched it yesterday. Now it is seen that the translation had already been printed. Surely it is your translation. It does not mention Gujarati as the source.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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557. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

September 8, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. Yesterday Pyarelal showed me your letter to him.

What a conclusion you draw from my innocent remark! That I show your letters to others and have my letters to you read by them: is this what you think of your godfather? In that case you should abandon him altogether. Why even write to him? How can you trust him? So, that is that.

The people from Sevagram came and said they wanted Dr. Sushilabehn. I said I too needed you, but that it was not in my hands, I would write to you. What reply could I give them? I have the reply but how can I tell them that? Write to me so that I can let these people and others know.

Now for the reply to your question. You want me to take you round with me as my physician, even as I take Mahadev. That occasionally, when you are so inclined, you may stay in the Ashram for the sake of the patients is another matter. I have told you that I cannot do as you say every time. Doing so would be my downfall, because I do not wish to be dependent on a doctor to that extent. That knowing this about me you still ask such a thing of me does you no credit. It is not a thing you should ask. But if I feel that I have made a mistake in not conceding your demand, I will ask your forgiveness and correct the mistake. If I have said anything contrary to this, you must take it as a mistake on my part. It amazes me that you are not able to understand such a simple thing. That is why I have entrusted everything to God. He will do what He wishes.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

558. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

September 8, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

Pyarelal gave me your letter only yesterday. You did we to write it. What you say is all in your hands today. Only one thing which is behind it all is absolutely wrong. Even though unconsciously, you believe that strength is your right. Doing one's duty is not a right, it is an obligation. You must be content to do whatever it is given to you to do. If I were on my death-bed, would you say that you would take up my case only if I accepted your conditions and not otherwise? If that be not so and if, as you have said, I should not be without a doctor even for a moment, because one can never say what may happen to me at what time, however much I may refuse you should never leave my side. But this is only an argument. I put forward this argument because you have advanced an argument. But what really counts is God. We must let ourselves be guided by Him. In my eyes, you are always with me. I never left you and I do not want to leave you. Your absence irks me, but I would not bargain even for your presence at the cost of duty.

You have committed a grave blunder by writing about the fast to your superior. Such naivete in you is a new thing for me. I informed you about it to convince you that I have concealed nothing from you. But you should not have mentioned it even to Mother or Mohan. It should have remained buried in your heart. I have not written about it even to Devdas. I hope this does not lead to any trouble. You do not have to do anything. You do not even have to feel sorry. There is no doubt that it has been a grave mistake. But now there is nothing to be done about it. You must face the consequences. This is no rebuke, only a warning to you.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

559. TELEGRAM TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

BOMBAY,
September 18, 1940

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
LADY HARDINGE COLLEGE HOSPITAL
NEW DELHI

DELIGHTED. GOD BLESS YOU.

BAPU

From a photostat: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

560. LETTER TO PYARELAL

September 19, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

Why should you be upset? Sushila cannot be kept tied down. It is as clear to me as daylight that she had no scope here at all. It was a terrible attachment that made me think that she would feel happy only if she lived with me and not otherwise. Even if that had been possible she would never have been happy. It is not sinful to dream to be a great doctor and work in a big institution. I can wish with all my heart that her desire be fulfilled. The time she spent here has not been wasted. Whatever she has gained from here will certainly stand her in good stead in her profession. I have no doubt at all her arguments about this place are absolutely incorrect. Some day she will see it clearly. When she does see it she will undoubtedly have a place here. Hence, she has not lost her place here. Her place here remains. She will never lose my love. Is it not for her sake that I am putting up with sourness on the part of Devdas? But right now it is your duty and mine to encourage her in her work. Let her gain some experience and, if she feels inspired, she can come here. Her foolishness does not let her realize that from her point of view her presence by my side is always necessary. Hence what she has said about me in her letter is the result of ignorance. But what can the poor girl do about it? Is she aware that she is a prey to ignorance? By writing all this I only wish to convey that not a single door is closed. Her place here is and will remain intact as it has always been. Your anguish at the moment is only a kind of stupor. It is unbecoming of you. In nursing this anguish you are failing in your duty and are creating an unnecessary problem.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library: Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

561. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
September 19, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

Pyarelal delayed giving your two letters to me. I was doubtful about your getting that post, and so I was delighted to know that you had got it. I have no doubt at all that you will bring credit to the post. You must have received my telegram yesterday. I think what has happened is all for the good. That is your milieu and that is your field. Whatever I might have done, you would have always found ground for discontent with me. There your path is clear. You fulfil your ambition and do your M. D. God will then guide you.

God will clear the misunderstanding between us at His will. Right now, you do not have to think about it at all.

Your complaint about my not writing to you often is absolutely meaningless. Why should you make a comparison with Rajkumari on that point? Why do you not make a comparison with Manilal and Ramdas? I have always written to you when I have seen the need. In such things it is not the individual but only the work that is important.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

562. CABLE TO CARL HEATH

WARDHAGANJ,
[On or after *September 19, 1940*][1]

CARL HEATH
FRIENDS HOUSE
EASTON ROAD
LONDON

UNDERSTAND FULL TEXT CONGRESS RESOLUTION. MY SPEECHES TELEGRAPHED. HAVE SOUGHT INTERVIEW VICEROY. SHALL DO EVERYTHING AVOID CONFLICT BUT MAY FAIL.

GANDHI

From a photostat: G. N. 1053

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563. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

September 20, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

There is no need for you to be scared because of the accompanying letter. I intend to write to you a fuller letter. I shall try to do so tomorrow. I consider it extremely important for you to be absorbed in your work. As I am father to you both, there is no need at all to write to Pyarelal separately. More tomorrow.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] From the reference to the Congress Resolution, which was passed on September 16; *vide* Vol. LXXIII, pp. 1-3, 33, 76, 135 and 295. Gandhiji reached Wardha on September 19, after attending the Congress Working Committee meeting at Bombay.

564. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

September 21, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your brief note. Today too I shall not write much. Send Devdas's letter to me. Do not worry about Pyarelal. Take it that he is well. I am in conversation with him just now. The subject can be only you.

If it has become necessary for you to wear glasses I think you are to blame for it. But since it is necessay, get them and save your eyes.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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565. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

September 22, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

Today only this much. We are leaving on Wednesday for Delhi. We shall leave for Simla on the same day. We have to reach there on Friday. Come to the station if you are free, otherwise whenever you can.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
LADY HARDINGE COLLEGE
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

566. LETTER TO PYARELAL

September 23, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

Your despair truly makes you heartless, and impels you to take wrong decisions. Why can you not stop taking such decisions? If you are my follower, then where is the need for you to take decisions or to argue? How hurt Sushila will be if you do not go with me? Both you and I know that she is not happy there. So you must go with me. Of course, if Sushila desires it and if you too desire it, you can stay on at Delhi till I return from Simla. No doubt you will be needed at Simla too, and you know it. What makes you say that the attempts which were to be made to bring back Sushila on my terms cannot be made now? Do make those attempts and win over Rajkumari and A. S. also. Neither of them is wicked by nature. For the rest everything and everybody has good and bad points. Forget all arguments, stop brooding and engage yourself in your duty.

BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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567. LETTER TO PYARELAL

September 23, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have taken your tears in the morning as atonement for the pain you gave me. It would be good if this were so. My love does not demand love in return and whatever may happen it will remain undiminished. What I am demanding is that if your surrender to me is total, then there can be no room for you to feel disappointment, because that too has been surrendered. Your growing disappointment betokens neither your love nor your dedication. You are caught in the web of your own verbiage, and so cannot understand even such a simple thing. But if my analysis is wrong, I have freed you from the responsibility of the *Harijan Sevak*. I do not wish to aggravate your misery by placing that burden on you. I would have only that which you can give me cheerfully and wholeheartedly. Then only can I feel happy. Taking work against someone's wish is also violence, is it not? The wish I cherish is to see your laughing face every day.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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568. NOTE TO PYARELAL

[After *September 23, 1940*][1]

Your letter is not at all proper. I feel the state you are in is a blot on me, because it means that my non-violence has not worked with you. What does it matter that you are not at fault? One cannot be at fault forever.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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569. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

DELHI,
September 26, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I inquired about you the moment I arrived. I had assumed that only you would be doing the massage. Mohanlal was sure that you would be coming at 6 o'clock, and that you would not be free before that. But I was not satisfied by that. So I had contacted you by telephone. In response I got your note and what a note! I had intended to talk to you about Pyarelal. Just for today I had wanted to take service from you. How much of your staff I have brought with me! But I have to put up with what you or fate has ordained. I am ready to take you to Simla if you are willing to come. Your letter is hurtful. But even in it I see your unhappiness and I feel unhappy in turn.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The note was found pinned to a letter dated September 23, 1940.

570. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

ON THE TRAIN,
September 26, 1940

CHI. LILI,

I have your letter. You must not think about anything else at all. Your duty is to become a doctor. With this thought in mind, concentrate on your studies. Lakshmidas is in the Ashram.

Blessings from
BAPU

LILAVATIBEHN UDESHI
KANJI KHETSI CHHATRALAYA
65 MINT ROAD
BOMBAY FORT

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

571. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SIMLA,
September 28, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

You are constantly in my mind. Sushila came to me with great difficulty. She is much hurt. She did calm down after coming here. She even admitted that she would have been unhappy had she not come. She is all right at the hospital. I asked her to come and stay with me but she pointed out the difficulty about getting permission for the night, etc. So I did not insist. Rajkumari would have of course been happy to meet her. One might say she is leading a new life at present. She has also written a letter to Sushila. I had sent something for the *Harijan Sevak* from train. I am sending something more today.

You must be calm. You have got to be calm.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

572. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

October 2, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

You made me quite unhappy yesterday. But that does not matter. I could see your deep misery through it. Still you listened to me, you gave me the massage and came back. I liked all that. You must have felt at peace even if only a little. Devdas gave me the correspondence you had with him. I read everything. Devdas clearly asked for forgiveness. But he is still angry with you. In your replies there is neither rudeness nor contempt nor anything wrong. Frankness, fearlessness and clarity drip from every word of yours. I see nothing wrong in your letters. Devdas should mellow. If he has not mellowed, he will do so some day. Do not feel upset. Mahadev had gone through them even before I did. He too has found nothing wrong in your letters. I showed them to Rajkumari also. Her name is of course mentioned. She no doubt has a relationship with Devdas. She read the correspondence and even before I asked her she remarked that there was nothing wrong about your letters and Devdas was being unfair to you.

You must continue to write letters regularly, you certainly have a place with me. Finish your examination and come soon. That is my most cherished wish. Do not worry about Pyarelal. Moreover, I am both father and mother to you. Now I have also taken Pyarelal's place. Thus I have three roles. It is only good to keep Pyarelal away from everything except his work.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

573. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

October 4, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

You will have received my letter. It is not right that you are not eating well. Mahadev is complaining. He has given me the gist of his talk with you. Do not worry about Pyarelal. I wish you would calm yourself.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

574. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
October 5, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

Pyarelal's letter to you went to Delhi and has been returned here. Now I am sending it to you. Take it that what the letter says is correct and keep calm. He is getting along well. Consider me in Pyarelal's place and put up with it as best as you can.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

575. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

October 6, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

You must be receiving my letters. Pyarelal gave me only yesterday the packet containing your letters. After perusal of those letters I have sat down to write this. Your unhappiness is unbearable to you; so is it to me. Why do you not calm down? I may be erring, I may be doing you injustice. A. S. may say what she likes, Mahadev may say what he likes. Listen to all in a detached way and put up with it. If you wish, I can forbid everyone to write you. I would of course continue to write. I am convinced in my heart that you will definitely be coming here after the examination. I do wish that you should pass your examination without any hindrance and you should have adequate opportunity to prepare for it.

You are going on writing to Pyarelal. He had even prepared a reply to you. But I dissuaded him. Having once decided not to write to you, it would be only proper for him to stick to the decision. Pyarelal saw the point and so you will not be getting letters from him. I expect you to co-operate in this. But if you cannot feel at ease without letters from him I shall ask him to write. I had suggested the course for your good and his. I am sure both of you will benefit from the restraint. But if you feel otherwise, I do not wish to impose the restraint.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

576. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

October 7, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I forgot to mention one thing yesterday. You have referred to Sankaran as "a boy" in your letter to the C. S. In English it is considered rude to call someone a boy. A boy means a peon or someone of that status. You should have written Sankaran's name. I have not sent that letter. But I have informed him. He may not be able to take our medicine. I shall ask Mahodaya[1]. I shall give the medicines if he is ready to take them on our condition.

The C. S. has not been able to cure Kanchan. He advises that I should send her to the K. E. M. Hospital in Bombay. I would of course like to send her to you. Let me know your view by a telegram. Be frank if you cannot take up her case. For, if I send her there, I shall have no other care except sending the money.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

577. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
October 9, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

Your letters have ceased coming, but I shall not lose heart. You must know that I have to bear a great deal of burden without you. Sharad[2] is very ill. Her fever goes up to over 104° every day. It does not go down below 102°. She was shrieking with pain yesterday and so I sat by her bedside for two-and-a-quarter hours. I left only when she fell asleep. I sent for the C. S. She went to sleep after he gave her the medicine. Now she is not stirring at all. Kanchan is gravely ill. Sankaran feels she has primary anæmia. Jivaraj agrees that she should be sent to Bombay. But I am awaiting your opinion. My burden would have become very light if you had not been so stubborn. But that was not to be. I shall plead with you when your examination is over. At the moment your place is there. But I felt I must write to you the above.

---

[1] Dr. Mahodaya

[2] Sharad Parnerkar

Pyarelal is getting along well. I hope he will calm down. A great deal depends on my being patient. Prakash had applied for a job in Simla. She has been selected. She then consulted Pyarelal. Pyarelal consulted me. I said she could not give up the work at Bettiah even if she got a thousand rupees. Bettiah is a place where she enjoys freedom, of which she has experience, and where she is able to serve the poor. Therefore, she should continue where she is. Pyarelal agrees with me. What do you think?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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578. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

October 11, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

Kanchanbehn is coming with this letter. The C. S.'s report is enclosed. Now I am free from worry about Kanchan. Keep me informed.

I am also sending another person for you to look after. He is Punjab Rao. He has expressed a desire that I should send him somewhere for about five months after which he will belong wholly to the Ashram. Last night it occurred to me that I should send him to you. Entrust him with some hospital work if you like. If you want to keep him in the Harijan Colony do so. There he can do the work which Viyogi Hari assigns to him. If he cannot be kept there and if he becomes a burden to you, you can send him back by the next train or whenever you like. There was no time to seek your permission. So you can consider that Punjab Rao is escorting Kanchan. Pyarelal is fine.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

579. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
October 13, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. When Devdas gets your letters they become his property. Devdas has not been under any restrictions. If after opening the letters he parts with them what should I understand? Besides, you had nothing to be ashamed of. So in giving them to people I only meant well.

My showing someone your letters is one thing. But my doing so after your specific instructions to the contrary would be betrayal. However, it is a different thing if the information gained from the contents is put to some use. If you give the matter a little thought, you will realize that if the information contained in the letters is not to be put to any use, it means that you should not write those letters. If you consider me your well-wisher, then you must have enough trust in me to know that if I use your letters in any way, it will be only for your good.

You ask me what I mean by saying that "others also should not write letters to you". You did not like Rajkumari's letter. That is why I asked : "Do you wish that others also should not write letters to you from here?" Mirabehn has done that. None but you is able to write to her. If you wish, this can be done in the case of the persons living at Sevagram.

You write in your letter to Rajkumari that I should not let my weight increase. It is 104 lb. at present. Should I not let it go beyond that? Should I deem it desirable if it goes down further?

Kanchan and Punjab [Rao] must have reached there.

Pyarelal is gradually settling down. You might almost say that he is eating regularly. I think he will come round. His health is quite good. He is engrossed in work. He also accompanies me to the Working Committee.[1]

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The Congress Working Committee which held discussions from October 11 to 13 approved of Gandhiji's plan for individual civil disobedience.

580. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEGAON, WARDHA,
October 14, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

How surprising! At the very moment I thought of calling Sharad here, I also thought of sending you a telegram to call you here. With great difficulty I checked myself. I knew that you would definitely come if I sent you the telegram. But I felt pity for you. Why ask you to come just for a couple of days? For how many patients should I call you? With that thought, I left her to God's care, and went to sleep. The last two nights were very difficult for both of us. I kept on waking up at night and found her crying. She cried a lot for two nights. One night I sent Pyarelal to her twice and once I went myself and came back only after putting her to sleep. But I am glad that you thought independently about it. Now she has recovered. She is not having any temperature at all. She is feeling weak. She passes a lot of stool after enema. It has a foul odour. I am purposely not giving her a purgative. Is it all right? Akbar has become very weak. He eats well. Do you think he needs to be given any tonic? Vijaya[1] and Sharada[2] have arrived. Both of them have lost a lot of weight. Sharada has become extremely lean. I cannot bear to look at her. What can be done about it? You would have to open a hospital if I sent all such patients to you.

These days I am writing to you almost every day. I do not ask for replies to all the letters but I do wish to have them acknowledged. I will be satisfied if you give an account of the letters you have received whenever you write to me.

Do you find it difficult to read my handwriting? Would you prefer me to write in Gujarati or in Hindi?

Keep Kanchan in the general ward if she does not feel hurt. I would think it proper to give her only the hospital food. But even in that matter do what both of you think right.

---

[1] Vijaya M. Pancholi

[2] Sharada G. Chokhawala

About the car, it is rather surprising. I shall of course investigate. From now on, I shall make a separate arrangement. Here the reverse has happened. Tulsidas has taught that the name is greater than Rama. But here, the name proved to be of no avail. The fault is mine, is it not? I have not earned so much merit that my name should be greater than me. If many others have the same experience as you the result would be that my name would carry no value after my death. Chintamani has already predicted that my body will be burned with the discarded spinning-wheels. This is for your amusement.

Pyarelal is really settling down.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

581. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

October 14, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I wrote you a long letter today but I forgot one thing. You may give liver injections or any other injections you want. I do not think Kanchan on her own will have any objection. If she can be saved by such measures do try to save her.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

582. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
October 17, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. I have given you full freedom with regard to Kanchan. Get for Punjab [Rao] whatever is necessary. Send the bill to me.

I understand about your letters. What has happened has happened. I am not ashamed of it. I have no regrets. But I have understood your feelings. I shall respect them. I have not misused your letter. I have not even talked much. But now I shall not talk at all. Nor shall I prod anyone to write to you. Let things take their own course. Let us submit all our differences to God. Let Him guide us as He wills.

Vijaya continues to be in bad health. Sharada is causing anxiety. Sharad is gradually improving. She has no fever now. Ba will be coming tomorrow.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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583. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
October 18, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. I wrote to you yesterday too. I had forgotten to mention about giving liver injections to Kanchan. So I wrote a separate postcard by the same post. You do not seem to have received it. This means that the person to whom I had given it did not post it on the same day. Now let me know if you have finally received it. I had written that you should give her anything you liked. I shall see about Vijaya and Sharada.

Sharada is in great panic. She has lost 16 lb. The problem of her son[1] will be in the way of her being sent there. I am considering about Vijaya.

I have understood about Sharad. I have not allowed purgatives to be given at all. I am carrying on with the enema. Still, it is good you have warned me.

What about Punjab Rao? You should not be unnecessarily burdened.

Ba should have come today but she has not arrived. She should be coming in a day or two.

I have understood about the car. The way you see it does not seem correct. I shall find some solution. Such experiences are common in life.

It is a great consolation to me that you are willing to come 'n times of my difficulty.

I myself do not know how I manage to bear the burden)f my present work. But so long as God wishes to take work out of me, He will continue to sustain me.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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584. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
October 20, 1940

HI. SUSHILA,

You write about glycerine enema. But surely it does not mply that soda-salt or permanganate enema cannot be used in typhoid? I have always used them.

Read the letter to Kanchan and give it to her. How is she keeping?

This place is becoming crowded. Vasumati and Ba have arrived today. Dasappa has come especially for his rheumatism. Valjibhai is coming tomorrow with his family. There are some other people also. I would say that there was not even standing-room left.

---

[1] Anand G. Chokhawala

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

585. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

SEVAGRAM,
October 22, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

Read this letter and reply to it either directly or through me. His weight has gone up to 120 lb. But how is it he still his indigestion? As for Kunvarji[1], Variava[2] says that he should continue to stay in cool climate. Hence, he has gone with Rani[3] to Kanti's[4] place in Mysore.

Surendra has been here since your time, hasn't he? Why is his asthma not getting cured? Can you suggest something? I am looking after a difficult case of rheumatism which I have taken in hand.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Kunvarji K. Parekh, who had contracted tuberculosss, had been advised treatment at the Mysore Sanatorium.

[2] Dr. Variava, who had attended on Gandhiji in 1939, during the Rajkot fast

[3] Wife of Kunvarji K. Parekh

[4] Kantilal Gandhi

586. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
October 23, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

You seem to have made a habit of misinterpreting me. When I said that we should surrender ourselves to God, I meant that either you or I would see light, so you must come. Then why should I not write letters to you? You should similarly understand other things. You did well to write a separate personal letter. That enabled me to show to Kanchan and others, the letter containing references to them.

I shall follow your instructions about Sharada. I shall send her alone if she is willing to go. Let me see. Mahadev has written to you about Kunvarji. Give me your opinion.

I have received a large number of names. They include not two but many names of women. There are a few among them whom you may be knowing. But it does not mean that I am going to send any of them. My view is altogether different today. I would be sending only one or two of them. But there can be a strong agitation after that. Everything depends on God. I shall do as He bids.

What is your diet at present? What is your weight? I hope you are not letting yourself become lean? What about your studies? Are you studying well?

The *Harijan*, etc., may have to be closed down. We have been served with a notice seeking to prevent us writing about the Satyagraha without showing it to the censors.[1] I do not wish to bring out the paper under such restrictions. We shall know tomorrow.

The letter from Prakash is enclosed. You have got to write to me regularly.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] For Gandhiji's statement to the Press on the subject, *vide* Vol. LXXIII, pp. 124-6.

587. LETTER TO PYARELAL

October 26, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

He who wants to see only wrong cannot see right. I am not even aware that I wrote to you in Hindi. I rushed through the mail in ten minutes and sent it on to you. It may be that the last letter I saw was in Hindi and I mechanically wrote to you in Hindi. Is even this a cause for complaint?

I did not take away any work from you. For no reason whatever you said that Rajkumari should take up everything. Hence I said that if she could take it up, so could I and it would not be a burden on me. I said I would do the sorting and send whatever needs to be sent to you. I did that and that is my second fault, is it? You did not even care to see how quickly I carried through the whole thing.

It is news to me that A. S. has contempt for you. I was under the impression that you two got on very well together. I have not found in her any contempt for you. What was there in it that you saw as contempt? A father may point out the mistakes of the son, get angry with him, make him cry and may see his other children as outsiders. What does it matter if someone sees contempt in it? But you are really unique. What can be done when you are not ready to put up with anything at all?

Is it not merely your imagination that you do not satisfy me in anything? Had it been so, how would I have taken from you so much work involving responsibility?

You no doubt suffer from an inferiority complex. But your real trouble is your pride. To tell you the truth, you never realize your mistakes. I have done a candid analysis today from my point of view. Let me suggest once more that you should lighten your mind. Be humble and cheerfully follow my instructions. Do not look at anyone with suspicion, attend all the programmes regularly, have a full night's sleep and remain fully alert during the day. You must definitely have half an hour's rest. If you do this much, both of us will be happy.

Blessings from

BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

588. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

Personal

SEVAGRAM,
October 26, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. Now that *Harijan*, and its Gujarati-Hindi editions, have been stopped, I do not have to request you to write anything now or in the near future. Oh! the number of things I have made you give up ! Kanchan, I take it, is rallying. As for Punjab [Rao], do what you think fit.

Sharada is reluctant to go there. Two days ago a very nice girl came here. She is down with fever. We do not know what the illness might be—malaria or typhoid.

A rabid jackal got into Sevagram the day before yesterday. It bit a couple of persons. We of course have a fence round the Ashram. We kept a watch. It was caught yesterday. Balwantsinha killed it.

There are so many people here at present that there is not enough work for everybody.

Vijaya has been sent to the hospital for a check-up.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

589. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

Personal

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
October 28, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

It seems to me that I am destined to fast. I am considering when I should do so and for how long. It is likely to begin in ten or fifteen days. What about you? Come if you feel like it. But I shall be happy if you can have patience and do not interrupt your studies but finish them. My fate is and will be in the hands of God. Maybe Jivaraj, etc., will come and go. Yesterday, a doctor friend of Ashadevi[1] also arrived. I do not know how long he will be staying. We shall be having some talk tomorrow. He has not been practising for the last two years or so. He is leading the life of an ascetic. He administers medicines to the poor. I am just acquainting you with the situation. None of them can take your place. You know that much. But you alone can decide what to do. I shall be happy if you come. But I have only the thought of your interest and your duty in mind. I shall abide by whatever decision you take.

You may think it necessary to consult Pyarelal this time. I can only say that he will not be able to think anything in the matter. Nobody can do it. In this case, you have only to follow the dictates of your own heart. I shall inform you of the developments. Do not say anything to your superior just now.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Ashadevi Aryanayakum

590. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
November 4, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have received your two letters. I understand what you say about the fast. But the thing is not in my hands at all. I shall do as God bids me. You do understand this language. I shall inform you as soon as I decide to go on fast. Then alone you should mention it to your superior. You have prepared her in any case. I am glad to know that you are indispensable there. Let that be your position always and everywhere. You should not feel unhappy. You should be cheerful even if the fast has to be undertaken. That too will be the doing of God, don't you think so? Sitting here I can see your misery.

Ramachandran[1] has written to Mahadev that he and Soundaram[2] have decided to marry, and that too at Sevagram if I permit. I have sent a telegram to say that they may gladly come. Ramachandran has also written that after the marriage, he too will court arrest and Soundaram will stay here. She will be here for some time, perhaps even a year. In that case, you will find the person you are looking for. You are surely coming here after your examination if I am alive till then. My heart cannot believe anything else. I wish you could be present at the wedding. But I do not want to satisfy that desire. Your work lies there for the present.

Kanchan seems to be recovering. Punjab Rao's letter is enclosed. Only what you believe about Punjab Rao is correct. I cannot understand the problem better than you. But if he is a burden to you, send him back. He should not become burdensome to you.

Have I written to you that Lilavati's brother[3] is having typhoid? He is getting along well. Sharada has lost a lot of weight. Nothing helps her increase her weight. Mahodaya has taken her to David today.

---

[1] G. Ramachandran

[2] Dr. Soundaram

[3] Lakshmidas P. Asar

Tomorrow is the Working Committee [meeting]. Sardar has already arrived. He came yesterday.

I was too enthusiastic when I wrote to you about Pyarelal. I see that he is having ups and downs. All of a sudden he goes into a tantrum. He misunderstands me. I do not know what it is. Maybe I do not have the language to convince him. Still, there is nothing for you to worry about. I will handle him and I hope that ultimately everything will turn out well. He is eating well. There can be no objection to your writing him a letter on the occasion of *Bhai Duj*. You may write any number of such letters you want.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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591. LETTER TO PADMAJA NAIDU

WARDHA,
November 8, 1940

DEAR PLAYMATE,

People who say we grow old with the passing of years are wrong. On the 17th you will have discharged one year's debt. How nice of you. Go on doing it for many more years. Meanwhile cart-loads of love.

BAPU

SHRI PADMAJA NAIDU
RED HILLS
HYDERABAD

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

592. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
November 8, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

Now you must be receiving my letters every day. Right now I do not have any spare time at all. Enclosed with this is Punjab Rao's letter. Read it and do the needful. I am afraid he will now be a burden to you. Send him here if that is the case. It is not possible to try and write to him separately.

My fast has been postponed for the present.

Soundaram's marriage was solemnized yesterday. Today was Sharad's wedding.[1]

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

593. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
November 9, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

You must be getting my letters regularly. Have I written to you that I have sent A. S. to Sind ? The purpose is that she should stop the murders of the Hindus even if she has to fast for it. There is a telegram from her today saying that she has reached Karachi.

The fast has been postponed for the time being. Soundaram is still here. Pyarelal is doing well. Prithvi Singh is still at Wardha. He will be here tomorrow.

Blessings from
BAPU

---

[1] Sharad Parnerkar was married to Prabhakar Machve.

[PS.]

Prithvi Singh has arrived to stay here.

Brijkrishna's[1] brother has been ailing for a long time. I have instructed that he should be examined by you. Examine him if he wants you to, and treat him if you can diagnose the case.

BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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594. TELEGRAM TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

WARDHA,
November 11, 1940

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
LADY HARDINGE HOSPITAL
NEW DELHI

COME.

BAPU

From a photostat: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

---

595. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
November 11, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. While speaking about the book, I gave the whole letter to Pyarelal to read, because you had also written in it something about him. I have not forbidden you to write to him on business. But I see that you long to have letters from him. If that is the case, I will withdraw the restriction. I have imposed the restriction in the interest of both of you. But if it irks either of you, I would consider it meaningless. Hence, I will follow your wish.

For the present at least Pyarelal is behaving. You may think anything you like about yourself though even that is wrong. But what you write about Pyarelal is not at all correct. I have told him that he should reply to you himself. If his reply is ready, I shall enclose it with this letter. But let me tell you that the cause of his unhappiness was altogether different. I shall not involve you in it. If you are keen, I shall tell you when you meet me.

---

[1] Brijkrishna Chandiwala

You are very stubborn. Why are you doubtful about your coming? If you want to come, either I shall soften or you will mellow down, or something else will happen and you will come. Leave something at least to God.

You have not yet replied to Kumarappa. You must send him a reply. Sharada is worried. She is not putting on weight. The boy too is not gaining weight. Soundaram is advising her. She says that Delhi will not suit Sharada. I was preparing to send her to you. What do you think?

Soundaram will be going to Madurai for the time being. She will return after three weeks. Whom were you preparing? I am preparing for a large-scale struggle. This includes Pyarelal.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

---

596. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

SEVAGRAM,
November 13, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I send you a letter every day. My letter or Rajkumari's letter or Pyarelal's letter will be sent today. Radha's was sent to you yesterday,

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

597. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

SEVAGRAM,
November 13, 1940

HI. LILI,

L.'s health is fine. You will get the pen along with this.

Blessings from
BAPU

LILAVATI UDESHI
KANJI KHETSI CHHATRALAYA
65 MINT ROAD
BOMBAY

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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598. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
November 14, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

Two letters from Balkrishna are being sent with this. One is to me and the other to you. You may make any suggestion you like regarding them.

Sharada's Anand does not sleep at all at night and either Shakaribehn or Sharada has to keep awake. Can you suggest any remedy for it?

It can be said for the preesnt that Pyarelal is absolutely calm and is keeping cheerful. I have permitted him to write to you so that he can send you the necessary information. Prithvi Singh is here and is of great help.

A. S. is busy in Sind for the present.

You will be getting along in your work.

You have to write to Kumarappa. His weight has gone up to 130 lb. Is it all right? He used to weigh 143 lb. He walks a lot and has a lot of energy. I do not let him do mental work as yet.

Ba is coughing a great deal. Should I send the letters to your residence or to the hospital?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

---

599. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
November 19, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

Your brother is visiting you, so what need for me to write? The atmosphere here appears different to me. But I need not write to you about all that.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

---

600. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
November 20, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

You took away Bachu[1] even without her stock of clothes. It caused great uproar. But I pacified everybody, though I do feel that you went too far in taking her away without her clothes and other things. I have received your note. I read it to Manu. I had no doubt at all that you would take care of her. Now do whatever is possible. Do not spend too much on clothes, etc.

---

[1] Nirmala Desai, step-sister of Mahadev Desai, who was to be operated upon for tonsils in Delhi

Mother will be keeping good health. Prithvi Singh has arrived.

Today Rafi, Shah, a student, Chinai, Ku., etc., have come. A lot of time was spent in talking with them.

There is no letter from A. S. Mirabehn has written a lovely letter.

Urmila is staying on. Maganlal has left. Your share of the greens was left behind. Poor Keshu had kept a whole vesselful of it.

Sushila's sorrowful letter has arrived. I am not writing to her separately. Talk to her patiently and remove her sorrow. She has not at all lost her place with me.

Sharada continues having the asthma trouble. It has been reduced much since yesterday.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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601. TELEGRAM TO PYARELAL

WARDHAGANJ,
November 21, 1940

PYARELAL
15 HUNUMAN ROAD
NEW DELHI

SHALL KEEP NOTICE READY.[1]

BAPU

From a photostat : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] For Gandhiji's letter to the Deputy Commissioner, Wardha, informing him of the civil disobedience to be offered by Pyarelal and Mahadev Desai on December 10, 1940, *vide* Vol. LXXIII, pp. 215-6.

602. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
November 21, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have your letter sent from Nagpur. I am sending the telegram today. I shall keep the notice ready. Do not worry. We shall certainly meet. It is enough that you do not stay longer than necessary and get back on Monday.

There is nothing particular for any copies to be sent to you. There was a telegram from A. S. She is happy. She has also written a letter. Sushila must be calm.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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603. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

November 23, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. It is not good that you continue to have cold and cough. I have noticed that you are careless about these things. How can you expect me not to worry when you continue to suffer from cold and fever? You must get well quickly.

It would have been better if Pyarelal had sent a wire about Bachu. The matter could have been sorted out earlier. I have sent Manu just on the strength of the telephonic talk. I hope to get the telegram tomorrow. Prithvi Singh has sent Pyarelal's two blankets with Manu.

There will be no other inconvenience to me if Pyarelal has to stay on for a couple of days more for the sake of work.

I took nine drops of *sarpagandha* last night. The blood-pressure came down to 159/94 by morning. I am not writing a separate letter to Pyarelal.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

604. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

November 24, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

There should have been a letter from you or Pyarelal today. Pyarelal shoud be coming today. I am writing this to relieve you of anxiety. I am not suffering from anything except fatigue. You must have received yesterday's telegram. I do all the work after prayers.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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605. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEVAGRAM,
November 24, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have been working a bit hard. The effect is showing. Hence there is need to take rest.

I got your telephonic message. Accordingly Manojna[1] is going there. I shall send the telegram tomorrow. You may stay there till Wednesday. You must complete the work there. You must definitely meet Devdas. I shall not write more.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Wife of Krishnadas Gandhi, Chhaganlal Gandhi's son

606. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

SEVAGRAM,
November 25, 1940

CHI. MRIDULA,

I have your two letters. What I said about Ba was only in jest. I cannot send her to jail. Other people, when they are in such health, are detained by me. How then is it possible that I would let her go? I am being very careful in the present struggle. Then I must let things take their own course. I am also passing your names, assuming that all the women are following my conditions. None of them should be having the responsibility of young children and none should be pregnant.

If at all I undertake a fast, it will be by God's inspiration. What can you or I do about it? So long as it was not definite, there was scope for argument. But now there is no room for it. Have faith in God.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

You have sent only one list. It will remain with you.

From the Gujarati original: C.W. 11212. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

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607. LETTER TO PADMAJA NAIDU

SEVAGRAM,
WARDHA, C. P.,
December 1, 1940

MY LOTUS-BORN,

It is well you are by Sarup's side. But you are not to join her or any of the resisters. What may be bravery for others would be cowardice for you. And I cannot have you regarded as a coward.

Tell Chand to condescend to write to me occasionally.

Love.

PLAYMATE

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

608. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

December 8, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. Everyone cannot be cured. You are a witness that you tried your utmost. Thereby you have fulfilled yourself. The result is in God's hand. Asking why you did not succeed means putting God to test. We cannot have such a test for God. Hence there is no need to seek forgiveness or to feel sorry.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

609. TELEGRAM TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

WARDHAGANJ,
December 9, 1940

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
LADY HARDINGE HOSPITAL
NEW DELHI

OF COURSE YOU ARE COMING DURING HOLIDAYS. LOVE.

BAPU

From a photostat: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

610. TELEGRAM TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

WARDHA,
[*December 9, 1940*][1]

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
LADY HARDINGE HOSPITAL
NEW DELHI

NO GRIEF OVER PATIENT'S DEATH. ENOUGH THAT YOU SPARED NO PAINS. PYARELAL COURTING [ARREST] TOMORROW. LOVE.

BAPU

From a photostat: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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611. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

December 9, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

You are stupid. Why do you feel miserable? What question are you referring to? What should I convince your brother about? About the rosary? But what is the need for you to regret? You are definitely coming during Christmas. You will not cease being my daughter or Pyarelal's sister. Pyarelal is living for you or for both you and me. But where is the question of anybody living for my sake? I am myself on the verge of death. But you are still only beginning your life.

You are unnecessarily worried about that woman patient. Your telegram has reached today. It may be that her good lay in her death. How do you know? You should certainly feel sorry if you were guilty of a lapse during the operation. You prayed to God for the life of the patient. From now on pray to God for full knowledge to carry out an operation. You can pray even for this only if you have fully mastered the technique of performing an operation. But I have no doubt at all about your knowledge. You do have the courage and humility to admit your ignorance when you do not possess knowledge. Remember that *shloka* :

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[1] The year is not clear in the source; *vide*, however, the following item.

> "Adversity is no adversity
> Prosperity is no prosperity;
> Adversity is in forgetting Vishnu
> Prosperity in remembering Narayana."

Do we know what is happiness and what is unhappiness? If you know it, come and teach me. Come soon. Send me a telegram that you have calmed down.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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612. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
December 10, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

Pyarelal started exactly at 8.45. Ba and Mahadev went by car up to the check-post. Pyarelal was cheerful. He had a hearty meal at Mahadev's place. I put a yarn garland round his neck. Ba put the vermilion mark on his forehead. Durga[1] also asked me for a garland. And so I put round his neck a special *tulsi mala* I had with me after first wearing it myself. I had intended that *mala* for you. Now a new one will be made for you. He has to go through the villages. There is no information yet about his arrest. Shastriji[2] is fasting without even taking water. Today is the second day. He is cheerful.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Wife of Mahadev Desai

[2] Parachure Shastri, who had been afflicted with leprosy

613. LETTER TO PYARELAL

December 12, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

Have a nice time. Do not spoil your health.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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614. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

Personal *December 13, 1940*

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. I cannot send letters to Pyarelal now. Hence I have destroyed both. Now I remember what you had said. What was there to write about it? I have understood about Kanchan.

Do come as soon as the vacations start.

Soundaram will definitely not come now. Ramachandran will go to Trivandrum. The struggle there will be terminated.

Shastriji is fasting without taking water. His desire is to attain freedom from suffering. He is in a supreme state of bliss. The ulcerations have almost dried up. His face is glowing. He does not pass any stool at all. Occasionally, he passes 12 oz. of urine. This is a very curious case from the clinical point of view. I would have been happy if you had been studying this case. But how can you take leave just for that purpose? It would be another thing if they sent you to study the case. How can I be sure if he will still be around when you get this letter? My affairs are going on well.

Brother was well and cheerful. You should not worry at all.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library: Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

615. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

SEVAGRAM, *via* WARDHA,
December 15, 1940

CHI. LILA,

I have your letter. I am well. Shastriji fasted without water for six days. I have just returned after giving him four spoonfuls of water today. It seems Lakshmidas is getting along very nicely. It certainly seems to be a case of typhoid. The fever must come down tomorrow. Sushila will return during the vacation. Motibehn's case is very tragic. You may come, but only if you can study here. Otherwise stay on there and prepare yourself. I have not found your pen. But why fret about it? You have got to pass.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI LILAVATI UDESHI
KANJI KHETSI CHHATRALAYA
65 MINT ROAD
BOMBAY FORT

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

616. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

December 15, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

You will have received the letter Rajkumari wrote to you yesterday. Following his wish, Shastriji was given water today. This was followed by orange juice. I took *sarpagandha* twice. I am sleeping under the balcony. Of course, you had predicted something different altogether. I am exercising considerable restraint in talking. I do a little work while eating in the morning. Not working is burdensome to me.

Blsssings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

617. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
[December 16, 1940][1]

However careful one may be, there is bound to be a day's delay.

You think you would keep me in good health by being very strict, do you?

If you come, I take it that you will certainly go to visit Pyarelal. Hence I am not sending anybody to visit him for now. I think he is entitled to one letter a month. I shall find out.

From today, I have started sleeping in the sun in the afternoon. I could feel an immediate difference. The blood-pressure came down to 146/96. It was 158/100 yesterday.

I have received the telegram about Shastri. He took water yesterday. He also took 3 oz. of orange juice. His health is distinctly improving. I give him a little massage every day. He and I are quite satisfied. But now he will subsist only on water. It is hoped that his disease will thus be rooted out.

We shall think about the new treatment only after you come. You can start from there on Saturday itself. Remember there are two trains, one in the morning, the other in the evening. You have to change at Itarsi by the morning train. But it has a lot of room and it reaches here at 11.30 a. m. the following day.

Would you be leaving Kanchan there or bringing her along? Do as you think best. You need not be in a hurry to bring her here. Everyone wishes her to return perfectly healthy.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] From the contents and the reference to Parachure Shastri taking water and orange juice; *vide* the preceding item.

618. TELEGRAM TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

WARDHAGANJ,
December 18, 1940

MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI
WALKESHWAR ROAD
BOMBAY H.

RADHA[1] REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. SEE.

BAPU

From the original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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619. LETTER TO MAHADEV DESAI

[After *December 18, 1940*][2]

CHI. MAHADEV,

It is not your duty at all to go to jail. It will be your duty to go if it is my duty to send you. But since I want to keep your mind in tune with mine in this matter, I said that you had my permission to think independently. By mind I mean reason. If your reason prompts you otherwise, I cannot have any benefit from sending you.

The ideas of sacrifice and the struggle are not apart. Sacrifice is also meant to be for the struggle.

There can never be any independent duty of sending you or anyone else. Duty is determined by the occasion. Had the *Harijan* been going on, I would certainly not be sending you. I would not have sent you even if Devdas had agreed. But in my opinion in the absence of any such restriction, it is my natural duty to sacrifice you.

What others say is due to their lack of understanding or, you may say, due to attachment.

If Rajkumari breaks, it will certainly not be from burden of work. I will not let that burden grow to that extent. It would naturally become lighter because the arrangements will change on account of your going.

---

[1] Daughter of Maganlal Gandhi

[2] It appears from the contents that the letter was written during the period of *Harijan's* closure in 1940, and after Gandhiji's discussion with G. D. Birla and Devdas Gandhi; *vide* Vol. LXXIII, pp. 244-7.

In view of the possibility of my making a mistake, I do not want to send you if your reason protests. But so long as I do not see any mistake on my part, it should be my duty to do what appears correct to me. More so because I believe that there is God's hand in what I am doing. I do things at His prompting.

I had told you that the word . . .[1] is not correct. I can get the correct word if I look for it. Be sure that there is no place for blood-pressure here. Even then, do what pleases you. You must remember that the Viceroy has been informed.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

620. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

December 22, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

How long you kept me waiting! How many people you disappointed! I had intended to get a lot of work out of you during this week. What hopes you aroused about Shastriji! But what could you do? I would certainly not wish that you should come leaving your writing. I had also arranged your meeting with Pyarelal. Pyarelal has sent a message that you should not come for the sake of meeting him.

Now you come when you think proper and when you conveniently can. Do not come if you have to strain yourself to get leave. Dr. Mehta has given me your message. I am happy.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The word here is not clear.

621. LETTER TO PADMAJA NAIDU

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
December 23, 1940

DEAR SLAVE,

Your two love letters. I see you are filling your place well. Only I hope your body is obeying you or are you its slave instead of being its driver?

In a way I am glad all the three members of the family are having a bit of rest.

Love.

SLAVE-DRIVER

LOTUS-BORN
HYDERABAD

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

622. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

SEVAGRAM, *via* WARDHA,
December 23, 1940

CHI. LILA,

I have your letter. You must not come. Save the money and the time. Study a lot and pass your examination. If you must come, do so during the long vacation. Otherwise come after you have got your M.B.B.S. All of us will like that better.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI LILAVATI UDESHI
KANJI KHETSI CHHATRALAYA
MINT ROAD
BOMBAY FORT

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

623. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

Personal
Carefully revised

SAVAGRAM, WARDHA,
December 23, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

My yesterday's letter was incomplete. Thinking it over, I see that your true place is in a large hospital and in your studies. You fit there very well. Dr. Jivaraj was also happy to see you there. I have also told you to have your dissertation vetted. You are appreciated there. You get lost here. There is no field for your intelligence here. Your progress is hampered and there is no appreciation of your qualities. You rust here.

It has hurt me that you are feeling scared to come this time.

I have a different view about your duty. But so what? What you see as your duty alone is your duty. I waited for you as the *chataka* bird waits for the rain.[1] Mahadev had got ready to come and fetch you. Shastriji, Sharada, Sankaran and other patients were waiting for you. You appeared so anxious about Shastriji that I was very happy. Others were also happy. It was expected that you would come and do something new. But you gave primary importance to your dissertation. What is the value of a dissertation as compared to attendance on a patient? But that is my philosophy.

Brother does not wish that you should come for the sake of meeting him. He wants you to go to Lahore and do the needful about the examination. I agree with his view. I have taken charge of Shastriji. Now I am not doing the massage myself. Manohar does it. I make my own decision about my diet. Sharada will be attended to. For your sake only I am abandoning hope of you. Your good lies in your studies and in the experience you are getting there. While you are there, I shall take from you whatever services I can. I shall send patients from here to you when necessary. The satisfaction which I cannot give you and you cannot give me we shall both have by your being there. I know that you would like to rush here when I am really ill. Come at that time. I shall take service from you. Do not read any wrong meaning in this letter and do not misunderstand. You will see my sorrow in this. That was inevitable. But ultimately, even that is for happiness. There is sorrow because I had placed my hope in you and it has been belied. There was no warrant for that hope. With that thought in mind I shall forget my unhappiness. But I shall definitely be happy to see that you are in a position in which you will shine and to which you will bring credit. If a time comes when you feel you will be happy only by coming here and not otherwise, do come then.

---

[1] The *chataka* is said to subsist on rain drops.

Blessings from

BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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624. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

December 24, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

You will have received the letter I wrote yesterday. I read Kanchan's letter subsequently. According to what she writes, she will start on the 25th. You know Taribehn[1]. She is considerably pulled down. I am urging her to go to you. Even if she agrees to go, I shall send her only if you permit.

Blessings from

BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Tarabehn N. Mashruwala, sister of Sushila Gandhi

625. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
December 25, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

You will have received my postcard of yesterday and letter of the day before yesterday. I am sending along with this Pyarelal's letter which I have received today. Follow the instructions contained in the letter. I can see that he is certainly eager to meet you. You should think over it.

Considering his eagerness to meet you and his anxiety about your studies, do what you think proper. Send a telegram if you are coming so that the date for the meeting can be fixed.

I am doing well. The night work cannot always be completely stopped. I keep on trying. I am hopeful of succeeding.

Have no worry about Pyarelal and Mother.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

626. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

December 26, 1940

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. I have always written letters to you without fail. You need not change your decision in view of my long letter. Hence I shall wait for you on Sunday. Send a telegram.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

627. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEVAGRAM,
December 27, 1940

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have your letter. Your handwriting is also good. Improve it further and mature it.

Sharad arrived from Indore two days ago. She had been laid up there for ten days. Now she is well. She will be going with Prabhakar[1] in two days to tour Agra, etc. A. S. is somehow carrying on. She will come with Mahadev to meet you.

My health has not suffered any setback at all. I am taking sufficient care. From the day before yesterday I have stopped working after the prayers. Shastri is improving. The Vaidya has arrived.

Make use of the things I have sent. You should adopt the policy of having fewer possessions in jail. I am sending the Maulana's Koran, Part I; Part II is with Vinoba. A. S. says that she has nothing containing my signature. I have sent a library copy. I have also sent another copy with a beautiful translation. It has been passed by Zakir Saheb.

Sharada's pigeon is doing well. Bachu has not yet arrived. But Manudi's Bachi far excels him. Nirmala's boy looks like a sage. Abha and Urmila have had their heads shaved because they were losing hair. Dharmayashdev has come today.

I am very happy that Jamnalal is with you. Let everybody improve health this time and take to constructive work like spinning, etc. You will not get such a chance again.

How about B. D.? Tell Ravishankarji that Bhagwati is at the Ashram and is well. I shall have her married off as soon as possible. I shall not hurry. She is reluctant to marry when her father is in prison. Let her father not worry about her. The girl is also at Wardha. I am planning to send her to the Mahila Ashram. Right now she is with Janaki Devi. Her brother is also with her.

---

[1] Prabhakar Machve

Prabhavati is here. J. P. will be coming tomorrow and going back on Sunday.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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628. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

SEVAGRAM,
Via WARDHA,
January 4, 1941

CHI. LILA,

I wrote you a postcard but it has no value in your eyes. Have you read the poem "Try Again"? Even a hard rock is worn by the friction of a rope. Are you not somewhat softer than a rock? You have got to pass. It does not matter if it takes a little time. Is not even that for my sake? This much is written with your pen. The rest is in M.'s letter.

A birthday means one year less from the years assigned to you.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI LILAVATI UDESHI
KANJI KHETSI CHHATRALAYA
65 MINT ROAD
BOMBAY FORT

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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629. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

January 6, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

Krishnadas has not been given any quinine. He is being kept on oranges. There is no fever today. Shastriji's hands looked more emaciated today. The Vaidya will be leaving for Bombay in a day or two. This place did not suit him. I shall do the needful about Sankaran. Tari will have settled down there. I hope you are well. Ba is all right. There is a big crowd of people here. The place is almost suffocating. Send your articles regularly. Mother must not worry about Pyarelal.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. W. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

630. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

January 9, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have received your letter. At this end only one day has gone without a letter to you. On other days, I have either written myself or asked Mahadev to write.

There is no need at all for you to apologize. You know already that you are forgiven. There is not only no harm in your writing what you may think about Rajkumari, etc., but it is your duty to write. Then alone can I help you.

Krishnadas has no fever at all. Do you think his heart is dilated? Can a dilated heart be brought back to normal? Krishnadas's diet consists of what Dr. Das has prescribed in consultation with me. He is being given vegetables, milk and fruit. He is given citrus fruits with milk and sweet fruits like papaya with vegetables. He has developed faith in this diet.

Shastriji is also given the same diet. His skin is showing improvement. He keeps cheerful.

Janakibehn's health is good. Today she was given sour lime with water. I do have faith about her recovery. She has only a slight pain while taking the enema and passing stool.

Remain in good cheer and prepare well for the examination.

I am doing well. I do take rest. Ask Tari to write me a couple of lines.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

631. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

January 11, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I did not send you any post yesterday.

I am in a position to give you what to me is good news. I took *sarpagandha* twice. Still the blood-pressure was nearly almost 200/110 at night. So I made a drastic change in my diet. I stopped taking boiled vegetables. The blood-pressure was 138/92 yesterday and this afternoon. Today also I took mashed raw vegetables. The blood-pressure went up to 148/98. That was after the prayer. I worked for half an hour after the prayer. The blood-pressure rose to 162/102. Today also it has been the same. My impression is that raw vegetables do not produce gas. Sankaran has found the experiment with raw vegetables extremely useful. Shastriji is continuing to improve. I have examined Janakibehn's wound. It seemed to me that there was some improvement. She is feeling better herself. Dr. Das is straining himself so much that he himself is likely to fall ill. Sankaran and he are reunited. It appears that they will get along nicely. Krishnadas is also well. He is on milk and vegetables. When the vaccine is received, I shall certainly have it given to Ba. The Vaidya has gone. He is likely to come back.

Do something about your dissertation. There is no reason for you to think that I give no importance to your dissertation or to your degree.

Devdas and also Gadodiaji[1] write that arrangement has been made for Tari's milk.

I shall be happy if Mother desires to come here. Now the cold is almost gone. If Mother comes immediately she will be a little cramped but that she must put up with. In your own place you can manage to accommodate thirteen instead of four persons. Compared to that it is much better here.

Rajkumari went to Madras the day before yesterday. She will be back on the 15th or the 14th.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Lakshmi Narayan Gadodia

632. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

January 13, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

Mahadevbhai gave you the information yesterday. There is continued improvement even today. In the morning the blood-pressure was 154/96. In the afternoon it was 145/87. I wish you would go a little deeper into this. In the indigenous medical treatment, change of diet is important. In the West it is considered of little importance. I have always believed that all plants have medicinal properties and if they are taken for their medicinal value, [allopathic] medicines will have very little place. I see that Das has given his whole life to it. Sankaran has started taking interest in his work and hence both of them are getting along very well together. Das has been put up in the small hospital room for the present. Shastriji is definitely improving. Janakibehn is also doing well.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
LADY HARDINGE WOMEN'S HOSPITAL
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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633. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

January 14, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

There has been no letter from you for three days. There are constant inquiries about Taribehn's health. You should at least write a postcard. Ask Tari to write or let Sushila write on behalf of Tari.

Balkrishna's letter is enclosed. What is to be done if he is not able to digest food?

I have been doing well so far. This afternoon the blood-pressure was 140/86 and in the morning 154/100.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

634. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

January 15, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter today after many days. You must not do this. I have allowed only one day to pass without writing to you. What you have written about Janakibehn will be very useful. Vinoba has just arrived after his release. Hence only this much for the present. Brother is doing well.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

635. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

January 16, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I wrote to you yesterday. There is nothing from you today. Vinoba is sitting in front of me; so I shall write only a couple of lines. Raw vegetables do not seem to have suited Kumarappa. The same is the case with Krishnadas. Shastriji has improved a great deal. The effect of the disease is visible only in some parts of the body. He even moves about a little.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. W. H.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

636. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

January 17, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

Again I had to pay a fine of one anna on your letter today. That was good. You got a room and indeed earned the credit for leaving. If I give to Shastriji what he wants and in the quantity he wants his sores will fester and he may also get fever. At least he has been free of fever ever since he was put on a restricted diet. He gets enough to eat, of course. Fruit and raw vegetables in large quantities. He seems to be digesting everything. He takes a good quantity of *chutney* of neem leaves. I did well to send you the diet chart approved by Sankaran.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

637. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

January 17, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I did not send you anything yesterday. Ba said yesterday : "Call Sushila here or send me there. The lump in my rectum is sore." I said : "I have asked Sushila to come but only when she has her vacation in April." That calmed her. But I have already written about her trouble. She has a lump in her rectum. Dr. Das applies cocaine and ointment to the affected part and gives her purgatives. But Ba does not seem to improve. Now you think over it and write to me. Send a telegram if you want. If you think it would be better for Ba to go there, I am ready to send her. She could stay with Devdas.

It can also be arranged to take her to the hospital if that is necessary. Ba will do as you say. If you think that there is no hurry and you will be able to cure her when you come here, that too will be all right.

You have to be here of course. Janakibehn is here. Madalasa is here. Both are getting along all right but I would be satisfied if you examined them. We shall also consider about the dispensary when you come.

Pyarelal will offer civil disobedience tomorrow. Prabhavati is well. Tomorrow she will be going back to Bombay to be with Jayaprakash.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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638. TELEGRAM TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

WARDHA,
January 18, 1941

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
LADY HARDINGE HOSPITAL
NEW DELHI

MEET AMTULSALAAM TOMORROW GRANDTRUNK ON WAY PATIALA. SUFFERING ASTHMA.

BAPU

From a photostat: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

639. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

[January 18, 1941][1]

CHI. SUSHILA,

Ba has a small growth in her rectum which is sore. Dr. Das is examining her. He has cleaned it and applied ointment. Ba has been kept on vegetable soup and fruit juice. Janakibehn is making very good progress. So also is Shastri.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

640. LETTER TO TARA MASHRUWALA

[January 19, 1941][2]

CHI. TARI,

You would never write to me, is it not so? If not, let your friend write.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The source has February 18 which is a slip; *vide* p. 410.

[2] The letter has been written on the reverse side of another to Sushila Nayyar dated January 19, 1941.

641. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

January 19, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

What a girl you are! No letter at all! What should I tell Gomatibehn when she inquires about Tari? Just a post-card to me would do. My health is good.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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642. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

January [*20*][1], *1941*

CHI. SUSHILA,

I received your letter of the 13th today on the 21st.[2]

Your keeping awake at night is terrible. It will be enough if it does not spoil your health.

As for Tari's health, you must instruct her friend to write so that at least for the present I am posted with her condition every day — not for myself, but for the sake of Gomatibehn and others. In the midst of your heavy work, I cannot expect from you daily letters or detailed information.

You will have received in time the telegram I sent concerning Amtul Salaam.[3] That is indeed an addition to your burden of work. But her health was so bad that the telegram could not be avoided. Of course, it is true that I could not have a correct idea of your burden of work.

Here, Ramnarayan and Manu have been ill. Both are better.

I had written about diet only for you to think over.

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[1] & [2] *Vide* the following item.

[3] *Vide* p. 411.

Brother is doing well. That is what those who visited Jamnalalji told me.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

I had to pay a charge of one anna on your letter. You should use thin paper.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

643. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

January 21, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

Yesterday I dated the letter 21st by mistake. You will have received my letter of yesterday. I have received your letter today. You may take Tari to your place. But would you not be overcrowded? What can I tell you in this regard? You must do as you think best. Do not go beyond your capacity. I have understood about the diet. You know my nature. I am proceeding with extreme care. Krishnadas is going on the 24th to visit his father for a month. I am managing other things carefully. Everybody's quota of milk and ghee is being maintained. Raw vegetables are being taken in proportion. You will see when you come. Shastriji's condition continues to improve.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. W. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

644. LETTER TO DR. ABRAHAM PAUL

SEVAGRAM,
Via WARDHA,
January 22, 1941

DEAR PAUL,

I was pained to have the awful account of the anti-Christian riot said to have broken out near Ganjam. I am sending your letter to the Congress office for inquiry and action.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

DR. ABRAHAM PAUL, M. B. B. S.
SERANGO P. O.
GANJAM DIST.
Via PARLAKIMEDI
ORISSA

From a photostat: G. W. 10976. Courtesy: Dr. Abraham Paul

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645. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
January 23, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

There is no letter from you. I am writing this as I think it will be useful to you.

I have understood about the change in diet. I shall keep it in mind and act accordingly. Both Manu and Ramnarayan have fallen ill. Ba is doing well. I must have news about your health. I hope your burden is a little lighter.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

646. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
January 25, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I had instructed Mahadev yesterday to write a postcard to you.

There was a letter from you yesterday on which I had to pay one anna. I had to pay on the earlier letters also. Today the weight was correct. You must either keep a weighing machine handy or affix an extra stamp.

I have understood your point. Do what you think right. I have procured another month's leave for Sushila so that there will be no need to transfer anybody. Do take from here the expenses you incur.

I wish that whether or not your thesis is accepted, you should continue studying for the examination. The examination is merely a pretext. But the knowledge acquired does not go waste, does it? Why think about what to do after getting your M. D.? In view of the great changes that are taking place in the country, thinking about what will or will not happen appears futile to me. 'It is futile to feel sorry about what the Lord of the world pleases to do at a particular moment.'

I have been keeping you informed about my health. I am well. I cannot consider what Mahadev wrote as correct. The blood-pressure had shot up when A. S. had upset me so terribly. It is now better than what it used to be. For instance, this morning it was 158/100. In the evening too it does not rise the way it used to after the slightest exertion. I am still taking uncooked food. Instead of *roti*, I take 2 oz. of grated coconut. I sleep well. My bowel movement is satisfactory. The weight is also maintained. It is 109 lb. I am keeping in mind your warning. I will not take any risk. Shastriji's progress is astonishing. The cause of the typhoid is not yet ascertained. We go on trying.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

647. LETTER TO PYARELAL

January 26, 1941

CHI. PYARELAL,

I have your letter. I had been waiting for it. I purposely abstained from writing. You know the reason. Your letter is beautiful.

I knew only from your letter that you had been to the hospital. Look after your health properly. I shall think about whom to send. I would have liked to send A. S., but she had to be sent to her mother who has been ill. I gather from Sushila's letter that she [A. S.] will be going to Bombay with her mother. I think she is not writing to me because she is angry with me. The reason why she is angry is that I sent her to her mother in spite of her asthma. I thought it was my duty since there was an urgent telegram from her brother. Her going has definitely done good. It has not harmed A. S.'s health in any way. If she comes, I shall send her. I am arranging for the books for you. You are studying well. I think your speed of spinning on the *takli* and *charkha* is quite good. Do not let your health deteriorate. There is remarkable improvement in Shastriji's health. There are no sores anywhere. His body is smooth like silk. The cause of all these changes is his fast. Now it is his present diet and the massage. Everybody is amazed. The letter will become too long if I give further details of the treatment. I am writing this at bed time so that I can get an early reply. Bablo is preparing for the Kovid examination. Your corner is meant just for you. It has been entrusted to A. S. I allot it to special women visitors.

The news about Mother is good. Sushila's thesis has been sent. She writes that it has reached late by three days. If the thesis is accepted, the examination will be held on the 19th April. She will be able to prepare for it. I have sent Tarabehn Mashruwala to her. That is how I have been taking service from her. Now there is no more time.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

My health is fine.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

648. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
January 26, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. I enclose a copy of Pyarelal's letter. The original contains an application which is meant for A. S. Hence, I have held it back.

I have understood about Tari. Right now sending Annapurna is out of the question. But I intend to send her as soon as she is ready for it. I have taken it for granted that you are coming.

There is no letter to me from A. S. at all.

I am happy that you are sleeping a lot. The studies will look after themselves. Those who seek knowledge continue to add to their store of it.

Devdas has just arrived.

Mahadev has already written to you.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

649. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

January 27, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

There is nothing from you today. You must have received my letter of last night. Would anyone from there like to come to visit Pyarelal? Would Satya like it? Or Shakuntala or Mohanlal ? Or even you if you wish to. Send me a telegram if anyone of you wishes to come. I shall fix it in the first week of February. Tari must be doing well. Manu and Ramnarayan continue having fever. But it is under control.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

650. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
[January][1] *30, 1941*

CHI. SUSHILA,

Yesterday I could not write to you. Mahadev had written the day before yesterday.

Dr. Das and Sankaran did not approve of the vaccine which has come for Ba as they found some impurities in it when they were about to administer it. It has been sent back to Nagpur today.

Manu continues to have fever. Ramnarayan is free from it. From the looks of his nails and nose, Shastri appears to have some fever. No one else has any.

I do not know why Mahadev wrote about me. I assure you that my health is good in every way. The blood-pressure does not go as high as it used to. It is under control even in the morning. I can say that I am able to digest cooked food. Do not worry about me at all. You will certainly know if there is any trouble.

I think nobody can arrest me. Devdas came here in connection with the press conference. He has gone back today. Mahadev will come tomorrow. He will be there for two or three days.

I have understood about Tari. Sushila's[2] postcards have started arriving.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The original in Gandhiji's hand has "12", i. e., December, which is evidently a slip. The contents indicate that the letter was written in January; *vide* letter to the addressee, p. 420.

[2] Sushila Gandhi

651. LETTER TO DR. ABRAHAM PAUL

SEVAGRAM,
Via WARDHA,
January 31, 1941

DEAR DR. ABRAHAM,

Your two letters. The quarrel you describe is heart-rending. I am doing what I can. As to medical men doing war work, there is room for difference of opinion. I am firmly of opinion that those who so help, promote war as an institution. There are many things we do under the name of virtue.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

DR. ABRAHAM PAUL, M. B. B. S.
SERANGO P. O.
GANJAM DIST.
Via PARLAKIMEDI
ORISSA

From a photostat: C. W. 10977. Courtesy: Dr. Abraham Paul

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652. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

January 31, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

There is no letter today either from you or from nurse Sushila. You must have received my letter of yesterday. Can you suggest anything about Manu? Her fever persists. She is five months pregnant. She has a slight bleeding. She is being given only vegetable soup and oranges and grapes. Dr. Das suspects *B. Coli*. Janakibehn feels quite energetic but her wound does not heal. *Usol* is not available. Can you suggest something? It is very cold here at the moment. There is no telegram from you regarding your meeting Pyarelal.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

653. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

February 1, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. I am keeping very good health. I am getting more sleep. I do not get tired quickly. I am taking only uncooked food. I am feeling better by not taking *roti*. I am being very careful. Do not worry at all. There is no need to send Mother. If she were over-worried I would have let her come. You must concentrate on your studies.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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654. LETTER TO TARABEHN MASHRUWALA

[*February 1, 1941*][1]

CHI. TARI,

I was very happy to see your letter. Continue to write like that. Get well soon. Manu has not completely recovered but she is improving. Right now at 4.30 p. m. she has no fever at all.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The letter is written on the reverse side of a postcard addressed to Sushila Nayyar dated February 1, 1941.

655. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

February 2, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

Even when you receive a letter from Mahadev, take it as from me, because when I myself do not find the time, I tell him to write you a postcard. Anyway, I take care to see that someone writes to you every day. On two or three days I could not do even that. I did well not to have replied to that Swami. We shall laugh over it when we meet. I am absolutely all right. Manu is now having very slight fever.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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656. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

SEVAGRAM,
Via WARDHA,
February 4, 1941

CHI. LILA,

You are a limpet. Mahadev has written many letters. Even I have written at least two or three. But if you cannot be satiated what to do? Do not spoil your health by keeping awake at night. It is enough that you are determined to do my work. Sitting there, are you not doing only my work? Manu is now better. Her fever is going down.

R. K. and Mahadev are at Lucknow and Delhi.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI LILAVATIBEHN UDESHI
KANJI KHETSI CHHATRALAYA
65 MINT ROAD
BOMBAY FORT

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

657. *LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI*

SEVAGRAM,
February 4, 1941

CHI. MATHURADAS,

In my view, a woman should be made the President. But she should not be the fourth candidate. When it is the Hindus' turn a Hindu woman should be selected. When it is the Christians' turn there should be a Christian woman. Similarly, with the Parsis and the Muslims. If the prevailing system has to be broken, it should be done by a non-Congress person. This is my firm view.

You will be keeping good health. You must go out for walks. You must follow restrictions in your diet.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

I feel Dr. Gilder should not come here and Mahadev should not go there to meet him. All others are busy or in jail. You can give this to him to read.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

658. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

February 4, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. Now Manu has almost recovered. Her diet consists of soup of leafy vegetables, grapes and oranges. Janakibehn is also well. There is further improvement every day. In spite of subsisting only on fruit, she has gained energy and is gaining more day by day. Under these circumstances, I shall not call you just for a night. I would wish you to come when you can get longer leave.

Tell Tara that I have received her letter. Her case is in your hands. You should not worry about me. I am really well. A. S. has arrived today.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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659. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
February 5, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. I had to send you some weights from here. I forgot. Is it the small packet that has arrived? I shall send it with someone coming that side.

Manu's fever is almost gone, because her temperature was 99.6° just for about an hour yesterday. I am writing this at 2 o'clock. So far she has no fever. It is the 21st day today. I have heard that the urine report has come. It is *B. Coli* all right. We shall get the vaccine for it.

Today Janakibehn walked as much as I do. She is maintaining her health very well. She is still subsisting on five oranges and 30 grapes. At night she takes *triphala* powder or something like that. With that she passes a little stool which does not hurt her. Enema is not given every day. I am not surprised that you have been so anxious about Manu, but Kishorelalbhai and others will naturally be pleased. Mahadev is still there. Do you read the newspapers or avoid them altogether? Did I write that Mirabehn is coming back? She will be staying in the cottage at Varoda.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

660. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

February 6, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. Supposing I write to you or have others write to you not for your sake but for my own? And what is wrong even if I am inclined to write for your sake? You do feel happy to receive my letters, do you not? Of course it is difficult to write long letters.

It is confirmed that Manu has *B. Coli.* Now I am planning to send her to Bombay to her parents-in-law. The fever is under control. She gets it for two or three hours. The pain has completely stopped. She gets sleep. Today she is writing to Bombay to find out what her husband wishes. I shall follow his wish.

Hence, there is no need to call you here at present for Manu's sake. I would certainly not call you for Pyarelal's sake. I respect his wish. I would certainly like to call you merely in order to meet you. But I am controlling that desire.

It has been very cold here for some days. For the last two nights I have been using the quilt made by Mother. That keeps me nicely warm which also has its effect on sphygmomanometer. The blood-pressure has been low in the morning yesterday and today. In my view the diet I am taking is proper. I pass motions without difficulty. I feel very energetic. The diet can be said to have suited in every way. When will your long vacation begin? When will you know about your thesis?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

661. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

February 7, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I am obliged to give you bad news today. Shastriji has a deep sore in the very spot which we thought had healed. If you press below the thigh, the sore bleeds. We thought the big toe of his right foot had healed. But now it looks as though it would drop off. The toes of his left foot have a swollen and black appearance. So, one does not know whether he is improving. Bharatanand[1] is totally absorbed in nursing him. I had felt so happy at Shastriji's improvement that this sight makes me anxious. Bharatanand thinks that these are signs of the disease subsiding.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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662. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

Personal *February 8, 1941*

CHI. SUSHILA,

I shall send the weights tomorrow. Sankaran gave the watch and the letter. The letter to Pyarelal is sealed. No sealed letter can be sent to the prison. It can be sent only after opening. It is another matter if some letters inadvertently find their way against the rule. So you write to me what I should do.

I have accepted your view. Hence there is no difference of opinion between us with regard to the experiments. The fact that you have not been able to change your view indicates your firmness and pure-hearted nature.

---

[1] Maurice Frydman

Manu is going to Bombay today. That is what her husband desires.

As for Shastriji, Manhar says that there is no need at all to get into a panic about the trouble he is having. It is also discovered that Shastriji had been secretly eating whatever he could lay his hands on. He has admitted this himself.

Mahadev has given only good news about Tari. I trust Tari more than you trust her. That is obvious, isn't it, because I was convinced that Tari would recover under your care?

It is still necessary to use a quilt at night. Mirabehn is in the cottage at Varoda.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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663. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

February 9, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

You will have received my letters of yesterday and the day before. There is nothing from you even today. I want to write about Kanchan today. She again has the itch. She has some pain in the throat. Should she be given milk injection? Sankaran has suggested it. Kanchan has consulted me. Now I shall do as you say.

Shastriji's health appears to be deteriorating. There is the danger of his having ulcers all over. His skin which was beginning to have a healthy appearance is again looking unhealthy. Bharatanand is no doubt working very hard. Now let us see what happens.

I have sent the weights with Raghunandan[1]. You will have received them before you get this letter.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Raghunandan Saran, a Congress leader from Delhi

664. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

February 11, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

There is no letter from you even today! I had sent you word in a letter to Tari yesterday. Shastriji is indeed in a bad shape. All the rest are doing well. My weight has increased by one lb. this week.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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665. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

February 12, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter after many days. You are doing real penance. In your own house your place is in the verandah! That befits you. As for me, ever since I have had a house, I have found a place for myself only in some corner of it. But my example is of no importance. Jamnalalji's is the best example. All the houses that he built became *dharmashalas*. And he has never used the room he built for himself. Since I have such examples before me, I am not pitying you. But I wish you would not show any laxity about your food. Let Mother say what she likes; you should eat only what you must.

Shastriji's condition continues to be the same. See the enclosed list. Sankaran wants to have the items marked in red. Is it necessary to buy all those things? Think over the matter and return the list with your comments.

What happened about the thesis? Has it been accepted? When will the result be known?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

666. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

February 13, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

Your letter arrived today. Shastriji has both his thighs affected. He has decided to fast again. I shall let him do so. Fasting does help heal the ulcers. At least he will die without suffering physical pain. You have given good news about Tari. Do what you think proper. Sankaran and Kanu will be going to visit Brother tomorrow. I shall open your letter and send it to him after reading.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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667. LETTER TO TARABEHN MASHRUWALA

[February 13, 1941][1]

CHI. TARI,

I have your postcard. Your weight can be said to have considerably improved. I am anxious to know the X-ray report. Manu is doing well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] This letter is written on the reverse side of a postcard dated February 13, 1941 addressed to Sushila Nayyar.

668. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

SEVAGRAM,
February 15, 1941

CHI. LILA,

You will be delighted to see the enclosed letter. Right now Lakshmidas has put on wings. I have permitted him to experiment. I have told him to be cautious.

When Manu went there, Lakshmidas sought permission to go to Bombay for a month. I told him that he could not go just then. And even if he could he should first ask you. He was at once convinced. Right now he is quite excited. What the future will be, God alone knows.

You will be well. I shall have to go to Allahabad on the 28th to open the Kamala Hospital[1].

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

669. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

February 15, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. Sankaran and Kanu visited Brother yesterday. He has again some trouble with his teeth. Bareto is going to examine him. We shall have further news today. The weight remains the same. I have read all the letters you have sent and given them to be kept safely. Mahmud never came. Shastri did not fast. Now he is eating regularly.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital

670. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

February 16, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

Has Tari gained 7 lb. or 9 lb.? She is doing well. There is more news about Brother. What Sankaran said was speculation. Now Damodar says that Pyarelal is very happy. There is no reason for worry. It is time for the post. Tell Sushila that her letter has reached me.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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671. LETTER TO NARAYAN SHRIKRISHNA HARKARE

SEVAGRAM,
February 17, 1941

BHAI HARKARE,

It is good you have been discharged. I hope you are well. All that I did I did as a matter of duty. One does not always get instantaneous result. The credit for its being so this time goes to Sarojini Devi.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI NARAYAN SHRIKRISHNA HARKARE
KELI BAGH
NAGPUR CITY

From the Hindi original: W. S. Barlingay Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

672. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
February 19, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. My blood-pressure this afternoon was 160/100. When I got up in the morning, it was 178/104. It remains satisfactory at night after the prayer. But even if I work for half an hour, it goes up as before. This means that after the prayer, I should completely stop working. But you should yourself come here during the holidays and improve this condition and suggest the necessary changes. Should I take *sarpagandha*?

Pyarelal will be released around the 7th. You should send the letter here. I do hope to send him there for a few days.

You may as well spend this year there. It will also help in your studies.

Would you say that Tari has progressed well? What is the X-ray report?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

673. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

February 20, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. I feel that Tari should be kept there for some more time. Till April at least the weather is fairly good there. Afterwards we shall see. What will happen if her health breaks down after coming here? It is another matter if you think that that will not happen at all. There will be no difficulty about sending someone from here. Annapurna has not arrived yet.

I particularly did not send Mahadevbhai because last time Pyarelal waited for him and there was a row. As Mahadev is not here this time no one could have been expecting him. Otherwise he would have gone even if busy. Now of course there is no need for anyone to go.

A. S. was not at all willing to go. She would have gone if I had ordered her. But I did not want to order. That is why she did not go. Her health cannot be said to have improved. She has brought some medicine from Bombay which she is taking. Otherwise she does what she pleases. The *peda* from Gokul is really wonderful.

Today I have eaten *roti* and cooked vegetables. Now let me see how that affects me. This morning the blood-pressure was high at 178/108. In the afternoon it was 144/96. Shastri has started his fast. Let us see how long it lasts.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

674. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

February 22, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I satisfied myself by having Mahadev write to you yesterday. The rosary accompanying this letter has been kept for you for a long time. Somehow it was never sent to you. Janakibehn had brought it. It had foreign thread. Prabhavati has now strung it with the thread prepared from yarn spun by me. The beads are of sandal-wood. Kanchan's pain has gone. She is still on fruit juice. I feel that ultimately it will benefit her. But do let me know if there is anything you would like to say in the matter. Shastri has once again started eating. He cannot any more put up with starvation. I am carrying on with vegetables.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

675. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

February 23, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have received your letter. If you cannot keep Tari there, I am afraid that it will not be possible for her to maintain her health here. What happened about Tari being put up in the Harijan Ashram? But I do not wish to burden you. Do what you think fit. I shall see what can be done. Satya has my blessings. May her new journey be successful. I am of course looking after my health. I do very little work at night. I try to go to bed as soon as the prayers are over.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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676. LETTER TO PYARELAL

February 24, 1941

CHI. PYARELAL,

Your letter arrived only today. It was no trouble at all sending Sankaran and Kanu. They had themselves asked to be sent. I purposely did not send Mahadev. Mahmud was to go but he had gone to Ramtek.

Fearing is in your nature. But you should only fear what would seem to incite fear. Yes, I would say nothing with regard to A. S. Whatever dreams you may have cherished about her may well remain mere dreams. Of course, even that cannot be said with certainty.

Satya's marriage will be only in the beginning of March. It will be a civil marriage followed by religious rites. This could not be done last week because the notice was not sufficient.

Tari is getting on well. She is still in Delhi. It looks as though she would have to remain there. I understand that in view of the hubbub of Satya's wedding, Tari will be shifted to the Harijan Colony.

I am in the best of health. I shall be going on the 28th to open the Kamala Hospital. I think I shall have to stay in Allahabad for a day. By the time you are released, my return will have become an old story. Mahadev and Kanu will also be with me.

Your quotation from the Koran is certainly beautiful.

I have sent the preface to your pamphlet yesterday.[1] It may be published by the time you come.

Janakibehn may be said to have had a new lease of life. Even Madalasa is under Dr. Das's care at the moment. She is also feeling well. Her blisters have subsided. Rukmini has adjusted herself well here. She is nursing Janakibehn.

I shall be able to see your spinning in person. The Parsee lady who used to bring coconuts, etc., has arrived here. She tries to please Ba by offering her dried fruit and nuts. Premabehn came here yesterday after her release. She will be going back on Tuesday (tomorrow). We shall be going on Wednesday. Rajkumari is doing well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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677. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

SEVAGRAM,
Via WARDHA,
February 26, 1941

CHI. LILA,

Why are you disheartened? If you have patience, you will be able to understand science as well. You will understand things not by reading a lot but by assimilating what you read. Can you not have some influence on Lakshmidas? Write to him if only a line to encourage him.

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[1] *Vide* "Foreward to *Status of Indian Princes*", Vol. LXXIII, pp. 347-8.

Blessings from
BAPU

LILAVATI UDESHI
KANJI KHETSI CHHATRALAYA
65 MINT ROAD
BOMBAY FORT

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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678. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

ON THE TRAIN,
March 2, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have not been able to write to you lately. But I did expect that you would keep me informed about Tari. I stayed there for two nights and could go to bed only at 11.30 p. m. I have not been able to write a single word to anyone. All my time was taken up with collecting money. There was no time even to get my blood-pressure checked. There was not even massage yesterday. I took rest in the train last night. When I saw the hospital[1] I was reminded of you.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] The Kamala Nehru Hospital in Allahabad which had been opened by Gandhiji on February 28; *vide* Vol. LXXIII, p. 352.

679. LETTER TO PADMAJA NAIDU

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
March 3, 1941

DEAR SLAVE (BY CHOICE),

You deserve the name for you have slaved as only you could have to make the whole function the success it was. You have been a friend indeed for you have been that in need. God bless you. You must not grow stouter.

What about Jawaharlal?

Love.

BAPU

SHRI PADMAJA NAIDU
ANAND BHAWAN
ALLAHABAD (U. P.)

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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680. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

Personal

SEVAGRAM,
March 3, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. No one opens your letters. They are directly passed on to me and mostly they are instantly destroyed. If there is some point to remember they are destroyed after they have been answered.

You are unnecessarily worrying so much. Who thinks you are disqualified? You have got to come during the April holidays. You are of course needed here. If you had come to Allahabad just like that, you would have been accommodated somewhere. Surely you do not consider it a sin to come specially to meet me. You must control your imagination.

Your view about the diet is not fully acceptable. Even so it is partly true. You also make the patient fast in typhoid. Half the improvement in Janakibehn's health is due to fasting.

Shastriji's sores are again drying up. Dr. G. is taking so much interest in his case that he has suggested taking daily photographs. He says his whole case is very curious. He is not disappointed that the disease has reappeared. Kanchan has also definitely benefited. She has not lost weight. Bharatanand has apparently benefited from fasting. Rajkumari had rash on her body and itching. She remained on oranges and grapes for ten days. She was given milk last evening. The rash has disappeared. You have to go deeper into the subject of diet and fasting. But that must be after you complete your studies. It is surprising that there is no information at all from Lahore yet.

There was a letter from Tari. It seems she is feeling happy to be in the Harijan Colony. Arrangement for two visits must have been made.

I have had the rosary sent to you. Why do you forget the work it involved? Is it of no consequence that it had been kept safely with so much care? I have not bought it from the market. It is from my collection. But your mind has become insensitive at the moment and that is why you do not like anything. This is natural. That state will pass.

I came to know yesterday that Pyarelal would be released on the 6th. Kanu or Sankaran will go to receive him. Mahadev will be there or on the train. I shall consider if it is necessary to send anyone else. I shall do so if there is need.

My health has not been spoilt by work. Change of work has definitely been beneficial. The weight has increased by 1 lb. It was 110 lb. The blood-pressure was 142/92 yesterday. This afternoon it was 184/112. I am not able to understand that. The weather has deteriorated here. There have been sudden rains and chill. Ba is well. Satya will have got through without trouble.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

681. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEVAGRAM,
March 5, 1941

CHI. PYARELAL,

This time I am sending only Valunjkar to receive you. I cannot send Mahadev because he is in Delhi. Otherwise I would have sent him. I could send Sankaran. But Valunjkar has come today. So I am sending him. You will of course come by the first train. The rest when you arrive here.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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682. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

March 7, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. You have done well to unburden yourself. You will ultimately feel calm. Brother has been released. He has sent you a telegram. He has also written. I have given him permission to go there. Now let us see what he does. I am perfectly all right.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

683. LETTER TO PYARELAL

March 8, 1941

CHI. PYARELAL,

There should be no dejection now. I hope the journey was comfortable. Tell Mahadev that this is the first time there is no letter from him. Why is this? If he has not already left by the time this letter reaches you, let him send a telegram. We are all worried. Sankaran is very upset.

Blessings from
BAPU

From Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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684. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

SEVAGRAM,
Via WARDHA,
March 8, 1941

CHI. LILA,

I have your note. Do not feel defeated. You will pass. Mahadev is at Delhi.

Blessings from
BAPU

LILAVATI UDESHI
KANJI KHETSI CHHATRALAYA
65 MINT ROAD
BOMBAY FORT

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

685. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
March 8, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. You have to come here during the vacation.

Tari has an itch and a stomach upset. I have written to her. She will show you the letter. I have told her to act according to the letter only if you agree.

I have certainly not permitted Bharatanand to live in Shastri's room. I would not consider it service but gross ignorance. Shastri will stay alone in the precincts of a temple. Bharatanand will nurse him but live absolutely apart. There are many temple ruins in the area. Dr. Das has nothing to do with Shastri's present treatment. Only Bharatanand is treating him. He takes some eight bananas, two lb. of buttermilk, three small coconuts, fifteen dates, six oranges, carrots, etc. He eats thrice.

Kanchan takes plenty of milk, vegetables, fruit, etc. Do not detain Pyarelal too long. Take full advantage of his presence. I shall see about his teeth here.

Enclosed is Manu's report. Can you suggest anything? I have started giving mangoes and 20 grains of ammonia citrate to Sharada's son. Is this all right?

Sankaran is very agitated. Radha writes that you have not replied to her letter. Ask Brother.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

686. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

March 8, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

You must remove the word "disappointment" from your dictionary. Sankaran will go at least for now. What to do about the dispensary is the problem. Can you suggest anything? What about your thesis? Will those people give no information at all? Can they not even say whether or not it has been accepted? Give my blessings to Prakash. Her work must be proceeding well. Did you come on special leave? Did Satya's wedding cost a lot? Who bore the expenses? How much?

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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687. LETTER TO DR. ABRAHAM PAUL

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA, C. P.,
March 10, 1941

DEAR DR. ABRAHAM,

Here is a copy of the report on your letter. It will be a pity if there is difference of opinion on facts. It is likely that the riot had economic causes rather than religious. But you will give me your considered opinion.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

From a photostat: C. W. 10973. Courtesy : Dr. Abraham Paul

688. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

March 10, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

If Pyarelal is there, tell him I have received his letter. Is he planning to follow you and run away? Do stop him at least for the present. Send him when it starts getting really hot or bring him along with you when you come for the Easter holidays.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

689. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

March 11, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letters and Pyarelal's. I have sent Kanchan today. Sushila has to be sent back. I do hope it will be convenient. Tell Pyarelal that I am not writing to him since he is coming on Friday. I am deeply immersed in work.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

690. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

March 13, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. I am a little pained. I am not even aware of having written anything in the postcard to cause offence. How can you be so touchy as not to tolerate if I so much as hint at something in a hurriedly written letter? Who are you bothered about? Of whom should you be frightened? Your being so touchy is a kind of disease in my view. You must get rid of it. I know your feelings. Hence I shall be glad if you write letters which anyone can read. Why worry about where you will ultimately settle down? God will do as He wills. Surrender yourself to Him. I shall be content if you continue doing the work I ask you to do.

Sharada is keeping well. She is eating properly. Anand is being given ferri et ammonia citrus. Do you suggest that he should be given ferri et sodium citrus? What is the difference between the properties of the two?

Sankaran remains very sad. He keeps crying. The moment he sees a woman he starts thinking of her private parts. This torments him. I shall see what can be done.

Bharatanand has broken his knee. He is in the J. J. Hospital at Bombay. He will be operated upon in a couple of days.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

691. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

March 14, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

You will have received my long letter of yesterday. I find astonishing changes in Shastri's health following changes in his diet. I have cut out coconut, dates and bananas. I am giving him papaya, oranges, sour lime, raw carrot and plenty of leafy vegetables. He also feels contented. Mahadev met Sardar at Poona yesterday. He has gone there to arrange for restarting publication of *Harijan*. Rajkumari has left for Delhi today. She will stay there for about five days in connection with her college. Then she will go to her brother.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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692. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

March 15, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

Pyarelal has reached here. He has gone to Bareto for his teeth. Bharatanand has broken his knee and so Sankaran's departure has been put off for the time being. You have got to come here during the Easter holidays. Inform me about the date. There is already work which suits you waiting for you. I am keeping well. The blood-pressure was 156/90 in the afternoon. Sleep, diet, etc., are as they should be. A. S. is on vegetable soup, honey and orange juice. Mahadev is still moving between Bombay and Poona. Gosibehn[1] will be going today.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Gosibehn Captain, grand-daughter of Dadabhai Naoroji

693. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

SEVAGRAM,
March 15, 1941

CHI. MRIDU,

I have your detailed letter. It is well that you are working for the Dal, etc. I have your demand in mind. I shall write when I find the time. Work has piled up considerably. Padmaja[1] has come. She has not seen me yet. Gosibehn has gone to Bombay today. You must definitely go for regular walks. Blessings to Nirmalabehn.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11213. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

694. LETTER TO JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN

SEGAON, WARDHA,
March 17, 1941

CHI. JAYAPRAKASH,

I have your letter. Yes, I saw your statement. I have objections about it. It seems to confirm what appeared in the newspapers. That is the impression it has left on Rajendra Babu also. When you saw me last you had appeared to be satisfied. Rajendra Babu says that your statement confirms the impression he had formed of it from the newspaper reports. If that is so there is nothing I can say. I have the feeling that your statement disguises your views. I have great regard for you and it is my dream that you will do great service to the country. Reading your statement therefore distressed me. It is not proper for a true public servant not to do what is his obvious duty. Look at your last sentence : "The reason why we want covertly to change the direction of the movement is silly." Everything silly is not necessarily untruthful. I understand about covert ways but being in a movement I would consider it improper to seek new directions.

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[1] Padmaja Naidu

But all this is my impression from reading your statement. If it is not correct then I have nothing to say and I will trust your word.

Now about your health. I am confident that if you adopt the treatment I have prescribed you will fully recover. For the first four days you must live entirely on orange juice. You can have anything up to 16 oranges. During this period and afterwards, at 2 or 3 p. m. when the stomach is empty, you should sit in a tub of cold water. In the Kuhne tub the legs remain outside. You should then rub the part of the stomach that is in water gently with a small towel. You may remain in the tub for half an hour. In the morning after the toilet you should have the whole body massaged. For this you may use the services of my friend who may be with you or any worker that may be given you. You should instruct him in this work. You yourself should be conversant with it. The way to instruct him is to give him a massage yourself. The oil may be any kind; coconut oil or mustard oil will be quite good. You should mix a little camphor in it. Make the camphor into powder and then mix it in the oil. On heating the camphor melts and mixes better with the oil. One pound of oil will require an ounce of camphor. Practise sitting straight in open air for twenty-five minutes and doing breathing exercises. This is necessary to regulate breathing. After the massage wash yourself with hot water. In washing use a small towel to rub the body.

Your food should consist, for one month, of raw and cooked vegetables and oranges. Boil eight ounces of vegetables and drink the soup. Take a quarter of the roughage that is left. But if you feel hungry you may take all of it. You should take 40 grains of soda bicarb daily. It may be added to the vegetables and to the orange juice. The vegetables may include carrots, turnips, radishes, and leaves such as spinach, mustard, shoots of pea, lettuce, celery and radish leaves. These should be eaten raw as also carrots. Or they may be crushed and their juice extracted. You should take two ounces of raw vegetable and six ounces of carrots, etc. The quantity may be modified. You should have clear motions. If there is any difficulty you should take enema and if that does not work take half an ounce of castor oil. Every day you should consume altogether five pounds of liquid. In the morning take hot water with honey or glucose. Clean your nose every day by taking hot water through both nostrils and bring out the water from the mouth. After this you should drink four ounces or more of hot water through the nose. Go for a walk daily according to your strength.

In the jail your first duty is to build up your body, forgetting the world outside. That is what I call satyagrahi jail.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Prabha says I have left out one thing. The statement that was issued after the Allahabad session tells about the legal position. My position is clear. If the Poona resolution stays I go.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Hindi original: Jayaprakash Narayan Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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695. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

March 18, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

There are no letters from you at all these days. Pyarelal offered civil disodedience at 9.00 a.m. and was arrested within 10 minutes. He will be tried tomorrow. He was cheerful. I shall await your early reply to the letter concerning Ba.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

696. TELEGRAM TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

WARDHA,
March 21, 1941

DR. SUSHILA
15 HANUMAN ROAD
NEW DELHI

BA ARRIVING THERE TOMORROW MORNING. RECEIVE NEW DELHI.

BAPU

From a photostat : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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697. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

March 21, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

Your telegram arrived and Ba took the decision. Telegrams have been sent today to you and Lakshmi. Now do whatever you want. Take her to the hospital if you wish or bring her back with you or send her earlier if she is ready to come. You had written that you wanted an escort for her. Someone will be sent to escort her but I cannot specify anyone in particular.

Your letters have reached me. The replies to them will be sent later.

Send me a telegram when Ba reaches there. Keep me informed about her daily.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

698. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

March 23, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your telegram. It arrived today. You must have sent it late.

I write about Madalasa today. Madalasa keeps on having ulcers in her mouth. I kept her on orange juice for a few days. Now she takes vegetable soup, fruit, etc. But the ulcers do not go. Can you suggest some remedy ?

Sharada's Anand is always ill with something or other. I feel like sending him to you. Now it may be too late but if you wish that he should come, I am willing to send him. Where should he stay if he comes there? Can he be put up with Devdas? Would there be any place in your house? Please consider and let me know. Do not hesitate to say no. Since I am always in need of help, I go on burdening you. You know my nature, don't you?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

699. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

March 25, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your postcard. Accommodation has been found for Tari at Panchgani. She can go there by the end of this month or any time she wants.

I understand about Ba. I have placed her in your hands. It is a shocking thing about your papers. But why feel disheartened by it? Examination is only a pretext. It will most probably be held in October.

Harijan will be published from Ahmedabad from the 5th of April.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

700. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

March 26, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

You must keep me fully informed about Ba. How did you find her chest, her heart, her cough? What about her energy? What about the pain in her groin? What is the growth in her rectum?

Did you find any deterioration in Kanchan's health?

Be assured that a house for Tari has been fixed at Panchgani. Now you can send her any time you choose. If she decides to go directly to Panchgani, her baggage, etc., will have to be taken along. Something will have to be decided about that. Such an arrangement will take some time. Hence, write to me fully after consulting her.

Sharada's Anand continues to run temperature between 99.5° to 100°. There is no change in his boisterousness. He goes on playing. He is also eating well. Dr. Das says that some children tend to be like that during the summer and that should not cause worry. What is your opinion? Can you suggest something?

The ulcers in Madalasa's mouth are not healing. She takes very simple diet. What about her?

Now I am letting Shastriji have any food he asks for. Nothing can be said finally about him. His sores form again and again. Those on his toes have more or less cleared. He may be said to be all right otherwise. I am of course keeping well.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

This was written in the morning. Your letter arrived subsequently. You are definitely coming here. Hence, when you get leave, bring Ba and Tari if she is ready. It will be very nice if you can get leave for 14 days. We shall see about Sankaran when you come.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

701. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

March 28, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I understand about Sharada and Madalasa. You will come and examine everyone and then guide me. I have already written to you that you have got to come. You may first go to Lahore if you want. That depends only on your convenience. Your meeting with Pyarelal will be arranged when you come.

Dr. Manu's father is also keeping well. I am treating him myself. He is kept only on orange juice. He was unable to sleep but now he does. He has kept up his energy. The blood-pressure is under control.

It is terribly hot. Do not forget about Pyarelal's article.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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702. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

Personal

SEVAGRAM,
March 29, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. I understand about Ba. If your coming is likely to be delayed, you should send Tari. I shall immediately send her to Panchgani. Kanchan will take her there and Sushila will go there after the 15th.

What should I write to you ? You have got to come here and stay as long as possible. I can say that this time I am stuck without you. But if you have really some work at Lahore, go there and then come here.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

You will see about the notice to *Harijan*. But there is an official letter from which I see that the time for publishing the *Harijan* has not come yet. Hence, it will not be published on the 5th now.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

703. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

March 30, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. Should I take it that you have cancelled half your leave? The 9th or 10th would be a very late date according to me. But you will do only what is possible. I have understood about Ba. I wish her suffering would end. My blood-pressure is very good. At 9.30 last night it was 140/92. In the morning it was 145/95.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Tari will be going straight to Poona *via* Bhusaval.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

704. LETTER TO MAGAN AND MANJULA MEHTA

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
[After *March 31, 1941*][1]

CHI. MAGAN AND MANJULA,

I had got Manjula's letter. I gave her permission to come here long ago. I will arrange for a separate kitchen for you too. The house will be definitely arranged for you in April. About Urmi, I will leave the decision to her. If she wishes to go with you I will let her. She is definitely making progress.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 1037. Courtesy: Manjula Mehta

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[1] From the contents it appears that the letter was written after Gandhiji's letter to Maganlal P. Mehta, dated March 31, 1941; *vide* Vol. LXXIII, pp. 411-2.

705. DRAFT OF A PLEDGE

[*March, 1941*][1]

I have often been asked to define this institution and to state the rules governing it. Hitherto I have been putting it off. I now see that I must not put it off any more. I have explained often times how the institution came into existence. The question that needs to be considered today is : what essentially is this institution? As for the name, Sevagram Ashram has already been accepted, it may well stay.

The permanent residents of the Ashram are those who accept the need for the eleven vows[2] and try to observe them and who intend to stay on at the Ashram even after my death and devote themselves to service to the end of their lives. Such persons should write down their names and sign the following pledge :

We, the undersigned, will observe the eleven vows and will endeavour to practise them to the best of our ability. We shall stay on at the Ashram even after Gandhiji's death and continue to the end of our lives faithfully to discharge whatever work may be entrusted to us.

The second category consists of those who have come here for service; they will be considered temporary residents. In the third category are guests who are here on short visits.

From amongst the permanent residents, someone of Gandhiji's choice will act as manager of the Ashram. After Gandhiji's death, when the post of manager falls vacant for some reason, the new incumbent will be elected by the permanent residents of the Ashram. He will be responsible for the internal management of the Ashram and assign work to individuals. As far as possible the manager will try to secure the approval of all the permanent residents for what he does.

The accounts of the Ashram will be properly maintained and arrangement will be made to get them audited every year. The accounts will be submitted to the trustees of the Ashram lands and the president of the Gandhi Seva Sangh.

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[1] The pledge was evidently drafted by Gandhiji about March, 1941, a year after Segaon came to be named Sevagram; *vide* Vol. LXXIII, p. 373.

[2] The eleven vows of non-violence, truth, etc., taken by the inmates of the Ashram; *vide* Vol. LXI, p. 63.

BAPU

[From Hindi]

Bapuki Chhayamen, pp. 421-2

706. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

April 1, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. Ba's case seems to have been made worse. But since you are there to mend things, I do not worry. Keep writing to me daily. Yes, it is true you cannot leave Ba and come. Let us see what happens. But would all these days be considered your days of leave? I am keeping very well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

707. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

April 2, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I should have received your letter today. I have a letter from Ba in which she writes about her pain. For the present, try if you can to write to me a couple of lines every day. If you think that Ba needs to be brought here do not hesitate to do so. We shall take Ba to Bombay if it is necessary. I shall accompany you. Being far away, I tend to take a serious view of the disease. We have not fully understood your medical language. I have not tried to understand it by consulting anyone. I shall feel happy if you can send even a telegram. Otherwise I am not worried since you are there.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

708. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
April 3, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. I have not been able to understand Ba's case even from this letter. I would have felt better if you had been able to give some details. I am getting a little worried.

I am sending Pyarelal's pamphlet about the Native States by tomorrow's post. Write if you want another copy.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

709. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

April 5, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter as also your wire. It appears from Lakshmi's letter that Ba may have to stay on there for about a fortnight. It is only now I understand that the fissure had already been there. It was not caused by the injection. I had imagined that since the needle had been inserted in such a delicate part it had caused the fissure. Thus, man's ignorance can cause him fright.

Your account of the scholarship is interesting. It is the reflection of your mind. You have done nothing wrong in writing to Dr. Jivaraj. It may be hoped that you will get the scholarship. I have not the slightest doubt that you will continue to get such things. It is not easy to find an efficient and devoted student like you everywhere. Hence, everyone will extend to you a helping hand. You just go ahead. In the end all that will be useful only to me, because ultimately your place is only here. It will always prick me that I could not see you during your holidays. When will you have holidays now? You will have received Pyarelal's booklet. Write to me if you want more copies.

I am well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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710. TELEGRAM TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

WARDHAGANJ,
April 7, 1941

DR. SUSHILA NAIR
LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE
NEW DELHI

COME IF BA AGREES.

BAPU

From a photostat: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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711. TELEGRAM TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

WARDHAGANJ,
April 9, 1941

DR. SUSHILA NAIR
LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE
NEW DELHI

IN CIRCUMSTANCES DON'T COME. SORRY.

BAPU

From a photostat: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

712. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

Personal *April 9, 1941*

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your telegram. I was no doubt deeply shocked, but as duty dictated, I sent a telegram that you should stay on there. Now, when Ba has completely recovered, you take leave for a few days and bring her here. I shall not worry now because I have come to know what the trouble is. It was my ignorance that was at the root of my anxiety.

Many people had been awaiting your arrival. Chief among them was Durgabehn. She has a curious pain in the hand. She told me today, "Now that Sushila is coming, she will cure me with a single injection." Such is her faith in you. Sharada is waiting for you as one would for the rains. Anand will be satisfied only when you examine him. What should I say about myself? There are also other names. But you cannot come even for their sake abandoning Ba if she is unwilling. That is the end of this vacation. I am eager to know about your examination.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

713. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

April 11, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

Your letter is so full of sorrow! But my sorrow is no less. Of course you were to examine me. But I was impatient for you to examine Durga, Sharada, Anand, etc. But I clearly saw that your duty was to stick on there. It was clear to me that Ba could not be left there unless she was completely willing. It is all right. You have work before you. You have your education, your experience. All this together is no doubt useful. Hence, let us sing: Victory is where dharma is.

My health is really good. I feel full of vigour. I am able to digest food. I continue to work. I am unable fully to follow your two rules. I always remember them though. Urmila reminds me very often: Sushilabehn would never let you talk like this. Sushilabehn would never allow you to work after 8 o'clock. That girl is an adornment for the Ashram. She is leaving for Delhi tomorrow. Magan cannot live without her, which father can?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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714. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

April 12, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. You always carry my blessings in your pocket for your examination. I have no doubt at all about your passing. It is as though you had been blessed by God. Only you should keep well. All the same I would have been happier if I had been able to administer a couple of slaps on your back before your examination. But how could you come just for that? I would certainly like it if you could come with Ba. I do not worry in the least about Ba now. I am also not in a hurry about her coming.

Pyarelal has sent a message that he does not wish to meet anybody now. I have not been able to understand his mind. He is continuing his study since he is sending for books. It seems his gums are still not quite all right. When you come here, you will definitely meet him whether he wants it or not. But all that when God brings it about.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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715. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

April 15, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. You will now come when you can. I am free from worry. You are carrying on your work there.

You could have easily joined the Kamala Hospital; but that is not your aim at all. As in regard to the Talimi Sangh, I have also some ideas about medicine. But I would need your constant presence to carry them out. Right now I rest in the belief that it is for that purpose that you are pursuing your study. But who can say where that Unseen Power is leading us? Hence let us move forward and continue with our endeavour without bothering about the results.

When I receive the papers I shall see what can be done. I am sending two more journals to Pyarelal today.

Durgabehn is running temperature. Her hands and legs had become stiff. Now she is better. She is being given steam every day. It has done her a lot of good. Dr. Manu is giving her the salicylate injections. That too may have had some effect. She is not being given any food. Had you been here, something else would have been tried. Give this information to Ba. It would be better if Ba does not go to Asahpur.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

716. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

Personal *April 16, 1941*

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. How can writing to you be a trouble to me? I manage to write in the midst of work. If on occasion I cannot do so, I do not make any special effort to write. This happened yesterday. I apply mud-packs to the stomach. Then I feel sleepy. If the mail goes in the meantime the letter to you remains unwritten.

I would like it if Ba could stay with you, whether in your hospital room or at your house. The only thing is that she should not be a burden on Mother. Make that change if Ba is willing. Her staying with you is certainly a different thing from your occasionally visiting her.

Letters to Pyarelal have been received. I shall have them sent on to him if that can be done. He is not able to get over his touchiness. His touchiness has its reasons, if we look for them. But my teaching is that we must not be touchy even if there are reasons for it.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Durgabehn had pain again yesterday. But she is feeling better right now.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

717. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

April 17, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

Rajkumari gave me your letter. I have not yet received the things you sent for Devdas. Would it not have been better if those too had come with Rajkumari? But there is no hurry about it.

Ba will have arrived.

Days are pretty hot here. It is nice and cool later in the night. How shocking that your examination goes on being postponed! You have to get your degree in such chaotic conditions! But what can be done? Being in that set-up, you have got to face those troubles.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Your reply about doctors joining military service is correct.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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718. LETTER TO SAROJINI NAIDU

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA (C. P.),
April 18, 1941

MY DEAR SINGER,

You are a finished diplomat. I am sending a wire of condolences. Herewith love letter for Lilamani. Sarup coming here on Sunday.

Hot winds blowing here all day. Hope you are better off.

Love to you all.

SPINNER

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

719. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

Personal *April 18, 1941*

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. Do I not know your condition? But why should I raise that issue now? You finish whatever work you have to do there. In a way of course no work can ever be finished. But what can be easily completed should be completed. Then the way will automatically be opened.

Have you given the papers to Devdas? Pyarelal's articles are among them. I shall have a look and decide whether they can be immediately used.

Brahm Dutt came yesterday after his release. He gave good news about Pyarelal. There will be more to know when Mahadev goes to meet Pyarelal tomorrow.

Durgabehn is doing quite well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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720. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

April 20, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I just could not write to you yesterday. I had sent Mahadev to Nagpur. He had a very satisfactory meeting with Pyarelal. He will give you a full account of the meeting. Of course, today he has gone to Wardha to receive Sarupbehn. He may be quite late in returning, because Prof. Trivedi[1] is very ill. He will have to tarry for his sake. I am writing to you only about one thing. Pyarelal says that you should definitely not appear for the examination without full preparation. Hence, he would rather that you did it either in October or April next. I feel that if you are confident, you should certainly appear for the examination in May. I for one believe firmly that medical service is a God-given gift in your case and hence you will easily pass whenever you sit for the examination. So far as knowledge is concerned you will go on adding to it all the time. You do not need anybody's certificate for that.

---

[1] J. P. Trivedi, father of Manshanker J. Trivedi

Ba seems to have arrived there. You will of course inform me about her condition. We have started giving mango and milk to Sharada's son. Because of that his bowels are moving. Now Madalasa remains to be treated. I am giving the same things to her also. She does keep well because of it.

Durgabehn can be considered to be quite well. Today she is not having any fever either.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

721. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

April 21, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your postcard. A letter to Ba is enclosed. Give it to her. Durgabehn is doing very well. I hope when you come here you will find much improvement in her health.

I do not like your being burdened in any way at the time of your examination. But how can you consider Ba a burden? God alone is your saviour. You did well to deposit the fee.

I am well. Shastri is also keeping well. A specialist has come for Trivediji. He has introduced some important changes.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

722. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

April 22, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. I have made it a rule to have someone visit Pyarelal. Send me the address of P. Gupta. I shall give him notice when the next visit falls due.

I have understood about your examination. I do not worry at all. It may be held any time. If it is held in May, you will be able to give me time without any worry. From that point of view, I would rather that it was over in May.

Ba is keeping well and so I shall not be anxious about her at all.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

723. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

April 23, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

There is no letter from you today. You will have received mine of yesterday.

Durgabehn is much better today.

I have two suggestions about Ba. She should have hip-baths and apply mud-packs to the lower abdomen at night. Both these things should have an effect on the rectum.

Today almost everyone is on fast.

How is Satya's life going on? How is Mother's health? Write a letter to Pyarelal and send it here. I shall try to have it delivered to him.

Urmila has gone there. I have told her that she should meet you.

My health is fine. What would you say if Anand were unable to pass stool without enema?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

724. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

April 24, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I could not write to you yesterday.[1] And today I am writing this at bed-time. The whole day was spent in meetting people.

Durgabehn is well. I am of course fine. Pyarelal is well.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

725. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

April 24, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. I have received all your letters concerning Ba and I have replied to all of them. Since you had forbidden it, I have not written to Ba anything about her fever. I know that you would not regard Ba as a burden. Still, Ba does make demands on your time, does she not? It irks me that you have to visit her twice every day. Ba is only in your hands and so of course you will shower on her all you have. But what would be my own duty in the matter? And yet since Ba is there with you what more can I wish? Hence, what you write is absolutely correct.

I am observing fast today.[2] By the time this letter is in your hand, there will be hardly four or five hours left to end the fast. I am not feeling anything today. I am taking a lot of water. If tomorrow passes the same way, there will be no cause for worry. Even if not, no harm can come in just twenty-four hours. The fast is undertaken on moral grounds. I have been greatly perturbed that Sharad and Abha resorted to lying. My conditions are such that they are bound to be broken, and when they are broken, one cannot help telling lies. Therefore, I had no recourse except to observe a fast for my mental peace.

---

[1] This appears to be a slip; *vide* the preceding item.

[2] The fast was broken on April 27; *vide* p. 468.

Give this information to Ba also. I have not let this get around. You too should tell no one except Ba. Do not mention this to Lakshmi [or] Devdas. I shall not be sending any telegram when the fast is broken. There is no cause at all for worry.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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726. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM,
April 26, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

My faith is well founded. It rests on direct experience. All learning is limitless. Fortunately, even the examiners cannot go beyond the limitlessness of learning. So, why should we be scared by it? You are of course not the type to be scared. So far, the fast has gone on all right. I have been able to carry on the daily routine. I am writing this to you at 6 a. m. I have been taking plenty of water.

It would be very nice if you could come here in June. Durga is well. Prof. Trivedi had blood-pressure. Now he is having difficulty in urination. He has diabetes. But his condition is fairly good. Durga is being given rest.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

727. LETTER TO KASTURBA GANDHI

April 27, 1941

BA,

Sushila will tell you everything about my ending the fast. Now there is no reason at all to worry. Durga's condition may be considered satisfactory. Trivediji is in midstream. I am not writing separately to Devdas and Lakshmi.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

728. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

April 27, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I just finished taking lime and water at 5.20 p. m. In the meantime the grapes have arrived, and I am writing this while eating them. My health is very good. I remained in bed the whole day today. They took me to the bathroom for the massage in an arm-chair. I am going to be on grapes and lime-juice for the day. There should be no cause at all for worry now.

I shall not write more today.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

729. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

April 28, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. I understand about Ba. You will know about me from my letter to Ba. I have not mentioned the blood-pressure in it. It was 132/86 in the afternoon. The fast will definitely do some good. The weight has gone down from 105 lb. to 101 lb.

Madalasa can be said to have completely recovered. She walks for an hour morning and evening. There is a glow on her face. She is taking milk, fruit and vegetables properly. She is able to pass stool without enema or purgatives.

Janakibehn's wound looks tender. You will tell me after examining it whether or not it has healed. Otherwise, she eats and drinks well and moves about a good bit. She sits without a cushion.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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730. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

April 29, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

Your letter is full of love. I know that any time I happen to go on a fast, you will come flying if you can do that. I am sure that you will try your utmost to restore Ba to health and your joy at doing that will be a thousand times more than at passing your M. D. Today's letter from Ba is no doubt good. I am not worrying at all. Come when you can.

Anand has now put on some weight. It is 19½ lb. He is keeping well. He has become very naughty.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

I did not have here the pain from which I suffered at Rajkot. And I am well. I have taken 1 lb. of milk today.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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731. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 1, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

You have done well to detain Ba. Her fever went down immediately, did it not? But you are right to say that Ba should not go anywhere at all.

I understand that you are definitely appearing for the examination. I have taken it for granted that you will pass the examination.

What you write about that girl is correct. You would have felt more satisfied if you had examined her yourself. But it is not always possible to keep that balance.

I am well. Durgabehn is well too.

Blessings from

BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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732. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 2, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

There is no letter from you today. There is one from Lakshmi. Ba must have completely recovered by now. I am gaining more and more energy every day. The mind is greatly disturbed after the passing away of Prof. Trivedi. He had been helpful to thousands of people. I was instrumental in bringing him to Wardha. Manu and other doctors made all possible efforts; but what could be done when the string had snapped?

Blessings from

BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

733. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 4, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. When will be your examination? How long will it go on? When will the result be known? I have taken it for granted that you are going to pass. Do not burden your mind with any worry at all.

My blood-pressure is behaving ideally for the present. I go to bed at about 9 p. m. The nights here are pleasantly cool. I think Durgabehn is improving day by day. It can be said that she is not having any illness at the moment.

Mahadevbhai will have to go to Bombay tomorrow in connection with the riots there.[1]

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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734. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 5, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. Lately I have not missed a single day. Never two days at a stretch. The case of Ba is delicate. You are doing your level best. You have even succeeded considerably. What else? Both of you will be coming here when this month is over. I do not have any doubt about your examination. You are of course gaining experience every day. Is it not increase in knowledge for you? And you have not completely stopped reading. Who will look after Ba in your absence?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] For Gandhiji's article on the communal riots that had broken out at the time, *vide* Vol. LXXIV, pp. 26-9.

735. TELEGRAM TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

WARDHAGANJ,
May 6, 1941

DR. SUSHILA
LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE
NEW DELHI

DEVDAS SAYS DESPITE YOUR EXTRAORDINARY DEVOTION BA GETTING WEAKER AND RESTLESS. IF SO BETTER SEND HER BEFORE GOING LAHORE BUT YOU SHALL BE FINAL JUDGE.

BAPU

From a photostat: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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736. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 8, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have sent you a telegram.[1] I had been waiting for your reply and so did not write to you yesterday. I do hope that Ba is really all right. So that is not the reason why I have sent the telegram. I feel perturbed that just when you are having your examination you have to be worrying about Ba. But I know God will save you.

I am doing very well. Doctor and Sankaran together had removed Lilavati, Rajkumari and Amtul Salaam from the proximity of my bed. Das slept on one side and Sankaran on the other. This went on for five or six days. Lilavati created a row and so she came back last night. Rajkumari and Amtul Salaam were in agreement with the plan. Lilavati was not aware of it. Even so she slept at some distance. She did not even protest when Dr. Das made other suggestions. The whole change was with a view to giving me rest.

---

[1] *Vide* the preceding item.

I forgot to write to you that I had read your article in *Hardonian*[1]. I thought it was good.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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737. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 9, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I had been expecting your wire. It has not come. If Ba has to come before you do, she must have an escort. That is why I am sending Lilavati. There is also the wish that while Ba is bed-ridden, this will mean less burden for Lakshmi. Now Lilavati is going there. If she has to stay on there, you will of course be showing her around the college, etc. Entrust that job to someone else. I do not wish to take your time.

I am returning the papers you had sent for Pyarelal. He does not want them.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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738. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 9, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I received both your postcard and letter together.

I understand about Ba. I feel relieved after sending Lilavati. The burden on Lakshmi was hurting me. Lilavati will give you all the news from here. It is really strange about your examination. What kind of a university is it that cannot fix even the dates till the very last moment? What can you gain out of it? Be that as it may, you have to go through the ordeal.

---

[1] Presumably the Lady Hardinge Medical College journal

I shall await your arrival on the 2nd or 3rd of June.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

739. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 10, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

There is no letter from you today. But there is one from Devdas. I understand from it that Ba's health is improving. I hope that improvement will continue and as you expect, she will return here in better health than when she left.

You will receive this on the 12th. Your examination also will commence on the 12th. Which of these statements is going to be true? Durgabehn is fine. So am I.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati ociginal: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

740. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 11, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

There is no letter from anybody today. You may have gone to Lahore. Still I am sending this letter. The enclosed cutting may be useful to you. It had been crossed, but when I noticed it, I cut it out for you. Ba must be well.

Things are going on well here.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

I hope you are regularly guiding Tari. She has chronic indigestion. She says she keeps writing to you.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

741. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 12, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your perfect letter. The letter from Devdas scared me so much that I sent a telegram leaving it all to you. Even though I had not asked for a telegraphic reply, I did expect one. But now it is an old story.

Now you alone will bring Ba.

But what about your examination? What utter chaos! I have not seen such a thing anywhere. On what basis did Lazarus say that the examination would be held on the 12th? Even if the examination is not held this month, will you be able to ask for long leave in June?

Tell Lilavati that I have received her letter. Coax her to study. I do not like that she should lose three months without study.

Jamnalalji has fallen ill. I have sent Das. He was under Das's treatment. He has difficulty in passing urine.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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742. LETTER TO PADMAJA NAIDU

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA, C. P.,
May 13, 1941

MY DEAR 'SLAVE',

'Handsome is that handsome does'. J. H. has gone by the appearance of the exterior. The imposing case was nonsense. Remove the nonsense and the bare *dhanush takli* is the cheapest and the most efficient thing going. It is cheaper than the original *takli*. It cannot easily go out of order and is so incredibly simple that the spinner can adjust it, not so the vertical wheel or the horizontal. I touch no other. After having said this, let me admit that the solid charkha has its special merits. But putting all things together, the *dhanush takli* I consider the best.[1] You will pass on this to J. H.

These riots are a wicked thing.[2] Evidently we have to go through the purgatory.

How is the old dame? And how are you?

Love.

SLAVE-DRIVER

SHRI PADMAJA NAIDU
ZAHEER MANZIL
RED HILLS
HYDERABAD, DECCAN

From the original: Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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743. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA, C. P.,
May 13, 1941

CHI. LILA,

You were supposed to write to me daily. Would it be futile to hope for this from you?

Among the fruit you have sent, the apples are no good. Half of them are rotten. Who bought them? Surely Janakibehn would not have had them sent if they were not good?

Termites had invaded your clock. A. S. has removed the termites and put the clock in your suitcase after cleaning. Did you leave your suitcase open?

What about tea?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] *Vide* also Vol. LXXIV, p. 389.

[2] There had been communal riots in Dacca, Ahmedabad, Bombay and Bihar.

744. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 13, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

Enclosed is a letter from Balkrishna. It deserves to be given thought. If you have something to suggest, do so.

It seems Tari's affair is not fully settled.

Everything is all right here.

There is no news from you today. I do not remember to have received your letters on two consecutive days. It is futile to ask you about your examination. Let us see when it is held.

Mahadev will come tomorrow.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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745. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 14, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. It is all right. Let Devdas bring Ba when he comes. About the same time you will be having your examination. You will come as soon as the examination is over.

Durgabehn is fine. What should I say about myself?

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

746. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
May 15, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. You have given very good news. Here also everything is fine. But Balkrishna's health is not good.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

747. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 16, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

The examination has come at last. You are sure to pass. I expect you to arrive on the 3rd.

Yes, it is true. Ba will certainly be uneasy in your absence. You should therefore send her early if you can. You may do what you want.

Balkrishna is running temperature. Tari is worried. You have rightly written that Tari will have to decide her own diet. But it is difficult. If it could be done what would be the need for persons like you? It is quite possible that you may have to go to Panchgani for a day or two. I do wish that both of them would recover by that time, because till June the weather is cold.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

748. LETTER TO ANNADA SHANKAR CHOWDHARY

SEVAGRAM,
May 17, 1941

MY DEAR ANNADA,

I have not written to you as I promised. As a matter of fact I discovered that I did not want to say anything beyond what I said in my letter to Guha[1] and what he has published. It is not enough that we give relief. That work many can do and are doing. But who can give courage to those who are frightened and who can avoid hatred in spite of things happening which must generate hatred? Surely that is primarily Congressmen's work. I hope you are applying your mind to that problem.

Now about Amrit Babu[2]. He has been riding the high horse. I never asked him to act as my agent or in any way to represent me.[3] Since his daughters had to be sent away to Bengal and since I had no particular use for him I asked him to return to Bengal and advised him if he wished to go to Dacca and immolate himself as a silent worker without fuss and without in any way using my name. Instead he has appeared in the limelight as a star of the first magnitude. It has pained me much. If I can, I want to avoid having to repudiate him publicly. Please talk to him if you think it worth while and wean him from his vanity and falsity. In any case warn those who should be warned. Do you know anything of his work in Dacca?

Yours,
BAPU

From a copy: A. I. C. C. File. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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[1] Arun Chandra Guha; *vide* Vol. LXXIV, pp. 10-11.

[2] Amrita Lal Chatterjee

[3] *Vide* Vol. LXXIV, pp. 29 and 45-6.

749. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

May 17, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

Your letter of the 11th arrived today. How is that? Mahadevbhai went and met Pyarelal today. He is all right, but he is almost observing silence. The gland in the neck is of course visible. He does not write any letters at all. I shall send your letters today. You must now be preparing for your Lahore visit. Everything is fine here. I shall wait for you on the 3rd.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. C.
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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750. *LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR*

May 20, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. You are right. I really do not get any time at all these days. Mridulabehn and Gulzarilal have come, and so I have to devote most of my time to them.

I go on thinking about your examination. When will you know the result?

I shall send the letter to Pyarelal.

I am fine.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

751. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 21, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. You will certainly pass. And if there is only one candidate who passes, you will be the first as well as the last.

I do not recollect that I wrote in Hindi nor why. It is the speed at which I have to dispose of the work these days.

Mahadevbhai, Mridulabehn and Gulzarilal have gone to Ahmedabad today. There is still the danger of riots in Ahmedabad. Durgabehn has gone to Bombay for medical observation. Nathubhai[1] insisted. Hence the house is quite empty.

Devdas and his big crowd will be arriving on the 24th night.

I shall of course await your arrival on the 3rd, but if you have to go out to help, do go. Let us see what happens. Inform me if there is to be any delay. You will of course go to Bombay for the sake of Prakash if it is necessary. We shall think about it when you come here. We shall see about Panchgani also then.

You must write to me regularly. I shall be worrying about your examination.

Otherwise everything is fine here.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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[1] Dr. Nathubhai D. Patel

752. LETTER TO PYARELAL

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
May 21, 1941

CHI. PYARELAL,

How is it there is no letter from you at all? I am enclosing letters from home. You must write to them. You must also write to me. Without that how would your going to jail do you credit? Should you not maintain all proprieties of conduct, all courtesies?

I keep getting news about your health. But it is one thing your giving the news yourself and quite another thing my getting it. Now write to me in detail.

Sushila is having her examination from the 26th. It will conclude on the 31st. I have given her full encouragement to appear for the examination. There are strong reasons for it. By the grace of God she will pass.

Ba, Devdas, Lakshmi, etc., will be arriving on the 24th. Lakshmi will be going to Madras. Ramdas will also be coming. Mahadev has gone to Ahmedabad today with Mridula and Gulzarilal. Durgabehn and Sushi have gone to Bombay for Durgabehn's medical check-up. They will be returning in about a week's time.

Amritlal, Veena and Abha have gone to Calcutta. They turned out to be worthless. Surendra has run away. It is not known where he is. He has misappropriated quite a sum. My health is very good. A. S. is the way she always has been. That is how things are. Munnalal had gone to learn the work of the Charkha Sangh. He fell ill and came back.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

This letter could not be sent on the 21st as nobody left that day. You must write to your people and to me. No service is to be had from Jamnalalji.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

753. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 22, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter.

You do not have to worry about the opposition from your brother. He did not have the background to form an opinion. And then does he also not think that my decision should be taken as final? He told even Mahadev: "What have I got to say when Bapu has made the choice?" Moreover, at the root of his opposition is his love or attachment. He wishes to see you at the top in everything. He would certainly not tolerate that you should fail. I would give no importance to your failing at all. The value of examination lies in giving prestige to a person. But those who fail do not lose their prestige, do they? There are many reasons for one's failing. Many clever persons are also known to have failed. But I for one cannot believe that you can fail.

Both Durgabehn and Mahadevbhai will have arrived here by the time you come. Munnalal has already come in a sick condition. It is only malaria and he has been given cinchona and quinine. He is better today.

I expect that Ba will be arriving the day after tomorrow. Lilavati writes that she may delay her coming by a couple of days because Ramdas has arrived there.

Do not worry about Ba. I shall continue your treatment here.

I shall be in trouble if Tari and Balkrishna fall sick again. I hope they will be out of danger by the time you come.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

754. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 23, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your letter. I am sending the letter to Tari. It could have gone today. But I just could not attend to it. That shows how overworked I am! For this reason I am late by a day.

The riots in Bombay and Ahmedabad are causing anxiety. Let us see what God wills. I am keen at the moment that you should finish your examination soon.

There is no time to write more.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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755. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 24, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

Ba has now arrived. She is fine. Devdas, Lakshmi and Ramdas have come too. Today only this much. You will have got over your first day of the examination by the time you receive this.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
SOHANLAL COLLEGE
16 LAKE ROAD
LAHORE (PUNJAB)

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

756. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 25, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have received your postcard from Lahore. Can they not prepare for you vegetables without chillies? If that is not possible, you should be satisfied with salad.

You will have received the postcard I wrote last night saying that Ba had reached here. Ba is still very weak. But there should be no trouble if she is careful. Now that she has come here, she will not keep herself away from work. I shall see that she takes as much care as possible.

When your examination ends, you will have conquered the world. It is extremely hot here. But I have been able to maintain good health. I am also working quite hard.

Devdas will leave the day after tomorrow.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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757. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 27, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

There is no news from you today. Ba is also counting days for the end of your examination. Today is the second day.

There is a letter from Balkrishna today. Read it and give your comments if you have any.

Devdas and Mahadev have gone to Simla. Lakshmi has gone to Madras. Ramdas has gone to Ahmedabad.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original : Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

758. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 28, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

There is no letter from you today. You will have received the one I sent yesterday. It is your third day today. You will receive this letter on the 31st morning. That will be your last day. Send a telegram when the examination is over. When will the results be known?

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
SOHANLAL COLLEGE
16 LAKE ROAD
LAHORE (PUNJAB)

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy : Dr. Sushila Nayyar

759. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 29, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I have your two postcards today. I have written to you daily. I shall wait for your letter every day. Ba is well. I am also well.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

760. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

May 30, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

Just a postcard will have to do for now. I have nothing to say except that you should pass. There is no letter from you today.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
L. H. M. COLLEGE
NEW DELHI

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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761. LETTER TO MAHENDRA PATEL

June 2, 1941

BHAI,

I have your letter. I hope the 4th will pass off peacefully. The duty on your part and on the part of persons like you is clear. You have to persuade both sides to restrain themselves even at the risk to your life. Then alone shall we be on the right lines. One thing is clear. No one must be a coward.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Keep me fully informed.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

762. LETTER TO DR. ABRAHAM PAUL

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA, (C. P.),
June 13, 1941

DEAR DR. PAUL,

Your letter to Gandhiji has come today. He desires me to write and ask you what in your own mind you regard as a 'modest' salary.

Yours sincerely,
AMRIT KAUR

From a photostat: C. W. 10979. Courtesy: Dr. Abraham Paul

763. LETTER TO PADMAJA NAIDU

SEVAGRAM,
June 23, 1941

DEAR LOTUS-BORN,

Here is work for you and for which you are eminently fitted.

It is reported in the Press that in Tandur 30 miles from Wadi, 3,000 pilgrims suddenly took ill after drinking water from a certain well about the beginning of the month. They had drunk from this well before with impunity. It is suggested that the well was deliberately poisoned by somebody. Whatever the cause, have the authorities remained indifferent over the tragedy? Or is it all a hoax?

Hope you and the whole family are well.

Love.

BAPU

SHRI PADMAJA NAIDU
RED HILLS
HYDERABAD
DECCAN

From the origiual. Padmaja Naidu Papers. Courtesy : Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

764. LETTER TO LILAVATI ASAR

SEVAGRAM,
June 23, 1941

CHI. LILI,

You will have reached safely. Concentrate fully on your studies. I do miss you. Had I permitted M., he would have come at 8.15 and wasted valuable time.

Blessings from
BAPU

SHRI LILAVATI UDESHI
KANJI KHETSI CHHATRALAYA
65 MINT ROAD, BOMBAY FORT

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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765. LETTER TO MATHURADAS TRIKUMJI

June 26, 1941

CHI. MATHURADAS,

I hope your health is improving there. Chi. Radha and Bindu are here at present. Bindu has been mixing with everybody here and has become adjusted to the food and other things here.

Of course the purpose of writing this letter is altogether different. You had suggested to Radha to come there. She did not realize that you desired her presence for your sake. I told her that whether you wanted it or not, her duty at the moment was to be with you. Radha is willing to do that. As soon as you get this letter, send me a telegram indicating whether Radha should come or not. If her services are useful even in the slightest degree, send a telegram without hesitation asking her to come.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

Radha is going to Bombay. So send a telegram to Bombay too.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Beladevi Nayyar and Dr. Sushila Nayyar

766. LETTER TO DR. ABRAHAM PAUL

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA, (C. P.),
June 29, 1941

DEAR ABRAHAM,

Rajkumariji has gone to Simla. I have seen your letter to her. I would like you personally to visit Sevagram and pass about a week and see things. I could then decide if I can make use of your services. And you would also be better able to judge whether you would like the work here.

Yours sincerely,
M. K. GANDHI

DR. ABRAHAM PAUL
THOPPAL HOUSE
P. O. PARUR
TRAVANCORE

From a photostat : C. W. 10980. Courtesy: Dr. Abraham Paul

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767. LETTER TO DR. GOPICHAND BHARGAVA

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
July 4, 1941

DEAR DR. GOPICHAND,

I am quite clear that an individual Congressman cannot offer violent resistance in a public brawl. I say public because Congress cannot govern private conduct.

It is astonishing K. B. Allahbux can accept any invitation without reference to Mian Saheb[1].

I have the Punjab statement in mind.[2] I sent Mian Saheb a letter I had promised.

Yours,
BAPU

From the original : Dr. Gopichand Bhargava Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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[1] Mian Iftikhar-ud-din, President, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee

[2] *Vide* Vol. LXXIV, pp. 149-51.

768. LETTER TO MRIDULA SARABHAI

SEVAGRAM,
July 11, 1941

CHI. MRIDU,

How can you have any cowardice in you? Prison is not for you. You are doing so much work outside that you should not even think of going to prison abandoning that work. Moreover, all those who have to go to jail will have their chance. This will be a prolonged struggle. Hence, patience.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: C. W. 11214. Courtesy: Sarabhai Foundation

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769. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

July 11, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I hope you have reached there safely. Also that you have gone to Sushi's place if you did not feel comfortable at Prahlad's house. All those places are like your own home. But you know Sushi very well and so staying with her may suit you better. You are completely free to do anything you think right. I have found your pen-knife. It is not worth while sending it there. It seems you forgot your umbrella with Ba. How will you manage without the umbrella? Do buy a raincoat. Here it has been raining with strong winds since 3 o' clock in the morning. It is still continuing. Khan Saheb has not been able to come.

Blessings from
BAPU

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

770. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

July 12, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

I had been expecting your letter. Prabhavati has come today. Both your rosaries are with me. I hope you have settled down properly.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
C/o ASSTT. DOCTOR
K. E. M. HOSPITAL
BOMBAY

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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771. LETTER TO DR. ABRAHAM PAUL

SEVAGRAM, *via* WARDHA, C. P.,
July 13, 1941

DEAR FRIEND,

Your letter to Gandhiji. You need not be worried for having troubled him. It has helped clarification of the situation. He regrets it is not possible for him to find a place for you, which will meet your requirements. He does not interfere in the internal administration of any hospital of the kind mentioned by you.

Yours sincerely,
K. G. MASHRUWALA
FOR GANDHIJI

DR. ABRAHAM PAUL
THOPPAL HOUSE
P. O. PARUR
TRAVANCORE

From a photostat: C. W. 10981. Courtesy: Dr. Abraham Paul

772. LETTER TO MARGARETE SPIEGEL

SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,
[*July 13, 1941*][1]

CHI. AMALA,

Mahadev is quite well. He has gone to Gwalior. Today he is in Delhi. He may be back tomorrow. The day after for certain.

You must get rid of your illness. Of course, you will drop in here when you can and wish.

Love.

BAPU

From the original: Spiegel Papers. Courtesy: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

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773. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

July 14, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

The weather has cleared today. There is no letter from you. My two (or is it three) letters sent to the hospital address must have reached you. Do take the things for the hospital. Ultimately it is all meant for you. I have taken it for granted that you will pass well and will come here the very next day. I do need you. I shall not collect the things that will be put to use only after you arrive here. Who knows what will happen in one year and how much they will cost then?

Right now I wish that you should be able to study well without any obstruction. I do hope the responsibility of Tarabehn will not be an obstruction in this. She will never respond to anybody's treatment except yours. The climate there after August-September will be very good. Kishorelalbhai has written to you in detail yesterday. Hence I am not elaborating here.

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[1] *Vide* also Vol. LXXIV, p. 162.

You did well to stay on at Prahlad's place. He is a fine young man. We should become like family members wherever we stay. Radha is quite close by. If possible, go and meet her on your return. But I do not wish to burden you even with the suggestion to meet anyone.

Blessings from
BAPU

[PS.]

I am well. Ba also is well. Manojna did not have fever again. Jamnalalji will leave for Simla tomorrow.

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

774. LETTER TO SUSHILA NAYYAR

July 15, 1941

CHI. SUSHILA,

Your two letters came together. Today also I am so busy that I cannot write to you. I do not think I am going anywhere from here. You do come here after completing your two weeks. You will certainly learn a lot there. I for one wish that you should gain experience in different hospitals.

Blessings from
BAPU

DR. SUSHILA NAYYAR
490 MULJI MANSION
EDENWALA ROAD
MATUNGA (G. I. P.)

From the Gujarati original: Pyarelal Papers. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Courtesy: Dr. Sushila Nayyar

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CORRIGENDUM

PAGE 53, footnote 2 : to be read as under :

Undertaken for Hindu-Muslim unity from September 17 to October 8, 1924, after which Mahomed Ali had presented a cow to Gandhiji; *vide* Vol. XXV, p. 157 and Vol. LX, p. 9. Mahomed Ali, to whom Gandhiji refers as Maulana Saheb, died on January 4, 1931.